

Bavarian News

Vol 4. Nr. 10

U.S. Army Garrisons Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Bamberg, Schweinfurt, and Garmisch

May 21, 2008



**CONGRATULATIONS
2008 SENIORS -
A JOB WELL DONE!
HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATES FEATURED
ON GARRISON PAGES**

**BAMBERG
TRAFFIC CHANGES
ENSURE SAFETY FOR
PEDESTRIANS
■ PAGE 22**

**GARMISCH
COMMUNITY
CELEBRATES ASIAN-
PACIFIC MONTH,
REMEMBERS
HOLOCAUST
■ PAGE 6**

**ANSBACH
GARRISON BREAKS
RECORD WITH LARGEST
HUMAN YELLOW RIBBON
■ PAGE 19**

**SCHWEINFURT
AFTB CHALLENGES
SOLDIERS, FAMILIES IN
UNIT COMPETITION
■ PAGE 24**

**HOHENFELS
KONTAKT CLUB LAUDED
BY MEMBERS
■ PAGE 10**

INDEX

■ **Sports:** Local student wins silver in spring Special Olympics
Page 29

■ **Medical:** Join the fight against the spread of MRSA
Page 26

■ **What's Happening:** Find out what's going on in your area
Pages 14-15

Joint Chief visits Graf, gets firsthand intel from troops

by MARY MARKOS
Bavarian News

The nation's top military advisor to the president told U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr troops last week that the Army's stop-loss system must end, and the Army must focus on dwell time for re-deploying Soldiers.

"The leadership wants to make (stop-loss) go away as fast as we can," said the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen during a town hall meeting with more than 300 troops May 16 in Grafenwoehr.

The statement, made during a question and answer session, reinforced Mullen's message of a changing, Soldier-focused force.

"Without any question, this is the best

military we've ever had, the best Army we've ever had... It's the best we've had in our history, and some would argue in the history of the world. It is that way because of you," he said.

"We are at a time where we've got to recognize that the system needs to change to put you... a Soldier and their family... at the center of the discussion," said Mullen.

This change was the second of a three-part message he expressed to the audience.

"First of all, thanks for what you're doing, thanks to your families," he said. "Secondly, we live in a time where lots of things are changing, and then thirdly, lead well."

Traveling to Grafenwoehr with his wife, Deborah, Mullen expressed gratitude to

Army Families and recognized that retention and career decisions are not made by the Soldier alone.

"Those decisions are family decisions, they're certainly not individual decisions," he said. "The support and recognition, the programs and the engagement with our families is absolutely vital, and the support that they provide you and our country is really, not just vital, but spectacular and much appreciated."

Change, Mullen said, is vital as well.

He recognized the change in the garrison's footprint, types of missions, tactics, and



Mullen

"The leadership wants to make (stop-loss) go away..."

See MULLEN Page 28



Photo by Mary Markos

At Grafenwoehr, far, far away

Dressed as Princess Leia, Leighann Truesdale, 3, daughter of 1st Sgt. Charles and Sgt. 1st Class Christina Truesdale, JMTC, gives Darth Vader a kiss May 4 at the Grafenwoehr Post Exchange. Members of the 501st German Garrison-Bavaria Area Star Wars Organization in full iconic costumes visited several locations on post.

Thousands go to war during Austere Challenge 08

by MARY MARKOS
Bavarian News

On May 5, 1300 staff officers and noncommissioned officers gathered at the Joint Multinational Training Command in Grafenwoehr and went to war.

The war lasted nine days. It was a joint contingency operation with Soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines, and was distributed to the U.S., England, Germany, and Australia, as well as sailors at sea.

Working through computer simulation, the different components planned and executed large-scale, high intensity combat operations comparable to the initial U.S. operation in Iraq.

Austere Challenge 08, which was headquartered aboard the USS Mount Whitney, a naval flagship in the

Mediterranean, marked the beginning of the 7th Army transformation, and certified the 7th Army's Operational Command Post as a Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command.

"This certification proves that this headquarters is trained and confident and certified, so that if (7th Army) goes to war, the leaders... are confident and able to command... they've done their training," said Maj. Derick Cowart,

Joint Multinational Simulation Center planner.

The certification is part of an ongoing process to merge U.S. Army Europe

and V Corps into a single 7th Army organization.

AC08 brought members of the merge together for the first time.

"Although a majority of the force of the soldiers in the operational command post did come from V Corps,



Courtesy photo

Several thousand troops worldwide participated in Austere Challenge 08. At Grafenwoehr alone, 1,300 took part in the exercise.

we (had) over 100 USAREUR staff officers here as well, and we have integrated officers from the 21st Theatre Sustainment Command," said Col. Eric Wagenaar, head of USAREUR exercise branch. "It was really a great opportunity to... start coming together as a team with an exercise to learn how the 7th Army is going to have to

function in the future. We're learning to fight as an Army headquarters," Wagenaar said.

The exercise gave the combined personnel an opportunity to develop standard operating procedures, tactics, techniques and procedures,

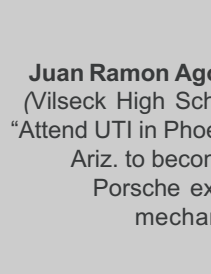
See AUSTERE Page 28

Q&A

What are *you* doing after *graduation*?



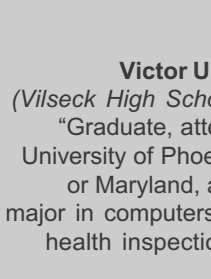
Larisa Chavez
(Vilseck High School)
"Attend National Outdoor Leadership School for a one-month course, kayaking in Alaska, then attend the University of New York in Prague."



Juan Ramon Agosto
(Vilseck High School)
"Attend UTI in Phoenix, Ariz. to become a Porsche expert mechanic."



Sha'Quana Harmon
(Vilseck High School)
"I'm going to attend Ohio University in Athens to major in medicine and dental hygiene, but beforehand I'm going back to New Jersey to become a licensed hair beautician."



Victor Ursu
(Vilseck High School)
"Graduate, attend University of Phoenix or Maryland, and major in computers or health inspection."



Katherine Schaffer
(Vilseck High School)
"Attend the University of Tennessee with my big brother."



Demario Galbreath
(Vilseck High School)
"Attend the State of Oklahoma, and I will be doing wrestling and football. I will major in criminal justice and become a member of the SWAT team."



Jasmine Nixon
(Vilseck High School)
"Attend Valdosta State University and major in theater."



Tim Ray
(Vilseck High School)
"Attend an online college for a year, then transfer to a four-year university. Major in criminal justice and then go to a forensic school, and then join the police force."



Many entertainment, organized travel opportunities available

Often I am approached by members of the community complaining that there is nothing to do in our area. In fact there are a host of things to do.

While it is true that in the past 18 months Armed Forces Entertainment had to postpone or cancel some 'big name' entertainment events in our area, our persistence prevailed and more top-notch entertainment is on the way.

Below is a list of events and activities available to the community. I invite everyone to participate and experience what we have to offer.

May 22 Top 40: Crash Dance - Memorial Fitness Ctr., Vilseck, 7 p.m.
May 23 2 SCR Birthday - Memorial Fitness Ctr., Vilseck, 4 p.m.
May 25-31 Missoula Children Theater - Vilseck SAS
May 26 Army Soldier Show - Theater Grafenwoehr, 6 p.m.
June 26 Olympic athlete visit - TBA
June 28-29 Grafenwoehr Fischer Fest -



Grafenwoehr City Pond
July 4 Fireworks - Graf and Vilseck
July 14-15 Major League Baseball Clinic - TBA
Aug. 1-3 Grafenwoehr German-American Volksfest - Camp Kasserine
Aug. 4-6 Tackle Football conditioning Camp - TBA
Outdoor Recreation is gearing up for their summer programs and offers a host of sports and activities for the whole family. Call DSN 475-2563 or CIV 09662-83-2563 for more information.

Activities include fishing, rappelling, scuba diving, high ropes, hunting and shooting sports, alpine hiking, and mountain biking.

And if you want to travel and see Europe, ITR sponsors day and overnight trips. Call DSN 476-2563 or CIV 09622-83-2563 for more information on the following trips:

■ Vienna May 23-26
■ Europa Amusement Park May 24
■ Two Castle Trip May 25
■ Rhine River Cruise May 31
■ Prague, Czech June 1
■ Black Forest June 7
■ Phantasia Land June 8
■ Amsterdam, Netherlands June 13-16
■ Berlin June 14
■ Linderhof, Oberammergau June 15
■ Poland Pottery June 21

■ Geiselwind June 22
■ Copenhagen, Denmark June 26-30
■ Europa Amusement Park June 28
■ Two Castle Trip June 29
■ Prague, Czech July 4-7
■ Budapest, Hungary Aug. 29 - Sept. 1

All of this, of course, does not include the multiple fests and gatherings you can attend throughout the area or the other trips offered in Bldg. 242's travel office at Grafenwoehr.

With respect to the 'big name' entertainment, our attendance determines whether or not future acts continue to come to our community, so I highly encourage attendance by all.

I also invite community members to pick up their monthly copy of the *Bavarian-American* magazine that has additional details on many events and read the weekly computer community newsletter that describes local events in the surrounding communities.

Get out and see the country, experience new sports and activities and thanks again for helping me make this the best place to live and serve in Europe.

Col. Brian T. Boyle
Commander, U.S. Army
Garrison Grafenwoehr

Picture Perfect

Photo memories show that all was well ... and all will be well once again



JACEY ECKHART
On the Homefront

Picture me in a huge white bathtub plopped right under an enormous window.

On sunny Sunday afternoons, I fill that bad dog with bubbles, open the window and lean back until I can see the hot air balloons cresting Black Mountain.

I tend to drink frosty lemonade and wear sunglasses during this activity. Believe me, it is as decadent as it sounds.

And that's why I want a picture of myself loving it — because I'm losing it. We are PCSing in just a few weeks and moving to a house with a much less fabulous bathtub.

Even though there is a lot to love about the new house, I know I'm going to long for this one.

I'm not being dramatic or maudlin. I'm actually being pretty practical. I've moved with my sailor 15 times. I can accurately predict that I'll get to Virginia and miss my herb garden in winter.

I'll miss my son's understanding teachers and the 18 baristas at Starbucks I know by name. I'll

miss walking the beach at Torrey Pines and the way the California sun falls across my bed every single day.

I'm not looking forward to it, but I am doing it. I just wish there was a way to do it better.

That's why I was so intrigued this week when I caught a snippet of an article about SEEKING change in your life.

The author suggested that one good way to initiate change is to take 50 pictures in a week. The author swore that this would increase your happiness by making you look at familiar things with a fresh and discerning eye.

"The more pictures I take, the more I think I should have done this before my husband's deployments. I had pictures of him smiling and dressed up and ready to go out."

envisioning a catalogue of which stores line your local strip mall or a pathetic collection of big eyed children on velvet.

I'm not thinking of inflicting guilt by digital photo. Instead, I'm using this project to take

pictures of all the things that have made our lives here so good.

My photos include some pretty weird stuff.

"It's an activity that makes me happier because it makes me notice all that I have. It is an activity that makes me happier because it somehow make me think..."

My pantry with exactly the right spot to put batteries and silver candlesticks.

My 14-year-old walking down the block with his friends and me NOT driving them. The rose bush on the corner that grows red roses so huge you could wear them as hats.

It's an activity that makes me happier

because it makes me notice all that I have. It is an activity that makes me happier because it somehow makes me think that I am keeping these things just by capturing them on a camera.

The more pictures I take, the more I think I should have done this before my husband's deployments. I had pictures of him smiling and dressed up and ready to go out.

I didn't know I could have taken pictures of him mowing the lawn or coming home from work at the end of the day.

I should have captured the way that tin of tobacco makes a circular sag in his jeans. The way the light falls on him as he reads a bedtime story. The slump of his shoulders while he contemplates burgers on the grill.

Pictures have a way of making us step back and see what we have.

They show us what we lose. And somehow they have the magical ability to assure us that it will be okay. Really, it will be okay to lose things. It will be okay to leave things behind.

A stack of photos says that all was well, and all is well, and all will be well again.

Bavarian News

Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Bamberg, Schweinfurt, and Garmisch

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Asian Pacific Heritage



A smokin’ luau

(At left) A participant in the May 17 Asian Pacific Heritage Month celebration at the Grafenwoehr Field House performs the Ailao Afi or Samoan fire dance, a fierce dance performed by warriors seeking to frighten their enemies.

(Bottom left) United States Army Europe and Seventh Army Command Sgt. Maj. Iuniasolua Savusa and wife Mareta participate in the Samoan Tauluga dance at Grafenwoehr's field house. During the dance, money is thrown at the taupou or ceremonial village maiden to show respect, honor, and appreciation for her graceful performance. The taupou symbolizes the responsibility that a chief has towards the people.

Photos by Paula Guzman



Photo by Mary Markos

USAREUR Command Sgt. Maj. Iuniasolua Savusa reviews photos he took with wife Mareta during the May 17 celebration. A native of American Samoa, he said the event celebrates how diverse our military is, how diverse Asian-Pacific Americans are, and reminds everyone how far our nation has progressed.

Spotlight on Education



Name: Shelley West
What grade / subject do you teach? 3rd Grade at Vilseck Elementary

Hometown: The Woodlands, Texas

How long have you been a teacher? 13 years

What do you like best about teaching? Getting to know the students and their personalities, and seeing the growth they make in their learning.

What advice can you give students to help them succeed in school? Always be organized! Even if it's a system that only you understand, make sure you have a plan and know how to follow through with it. There's nothing worse than doing an assignment or paper and forgetting it at home on the day it's due.

Retiree Q&A: Availability of Medical Care at On-Post Health Clinics

Q: Will retirees be seen in emergency situations?
A: No. Grafenwoehr Health Clinic does not have an emergency room. All emergencies should proceed to the nearest emergency room. Emergencies presented at the clinic are transferred via ambulance to the nearest emergency room.

Q: Can retirees be seen on a standby basis?
A: No. Any space we have available will go to active duty Soldiers and family members.

Q: Can retirees that are being treated by their TRICARE provider for previously identified long term conditions still receive treatment or must they start anew with a local physician or hospital?
A: All retirees are TRICARE standard and

therefore are seen on a space available basis. Space available care is not the best health care model because patients can not always be seen. If the retiree is enrolled in TRICARE Plus (which means they have provider in our clinic) we will continue to see them as long as their provider is here. When their provider leaves, we will transition the patient to a local physician. If the retiree is not TRICARE Plus it is in their best interest to establish a new relationship with a local provider who can consistently meet their medical needs.
Q: Will retiree patients be permitted to renew their medications prescribed by their TRICARE providers?
A: The prescription benefit is still available to retiree patients. TRICARE providers are in our database which allows us to fill prescriptions safely. The prescription must be written to American standards and be a drug that is available in the pharmacy. Once all refills are

picked-up, clinic providers will not be available to renew prescriptions as this often requires an appointment to be done safely.

Q: Can retirees that live a long way from a military clinic still be seen? We only have the local doctors here in Berlin, and it sure helps the retirees to get the prescribed medicines from the military pharmacy. For ER treatment we use local facilities. (Berlin)
A: Sorry, we are able to see TRICARE standard patients on a space available basis only. Currently, we do not have space available.

Q: Will retirees be able to have the doctors at Vilseck/Grafenwoehr clinics write prescriptions to be sent via the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy?
So that they can send the medications to retirees?
A: In order to prescribe medication safely,

health care providers need to be the ones who are actually providing the care. It would be unsafe to write prescription for patients who are not under the care of a provider in our clinics.

Q: Can I still continue to call in and get an appointment with my current or another primary care physician, even though I may have to wait 2-3 weeks (or longer) to see him/her?
A: Only if there is space available. Currently we do not have space.

Q: If I have to go to a German doctor and he gives me a prescription, can I get the prescription filled at the military pharmacy?
A: The prescription must be written by a German doctor who is a TRICARE provider. The prescription must be written to American standards and be a drug that is available in the pharmacy.

Air pistols recalled by Umarex USA for involuntary firing

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product.
Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately, unless otherwise instructed.
Name of Product: Air pistols
Units: About 7,250
Distributor: Umarex USA Inc., of Fort Smith, Ark.
Manufacturer: DianaWerk GmbH & Co., of Rastatt, Germany
Hazard: The air pistols can accidentally discharge, posing a risk of serious injury if the air pistol is loaded and pointed at the user or

another person when it discharges.
Incidents/Injuries: Umarex USA has received one report of an injury involving the recalled air pistols.
The pistol reportedly fired a pellet unexpectedly and struck the user in the lower leg causing swelling.
Description: The recall involves the RWS-5G Magnum air pistol. The air pistols, which are used for target and recreational shooting, use spring air to fire pellets.
The air pistols are black and measure 17 ¾ x 6 inches. "RWS Diana P5 Magnum" is printed on the top of the air pistol.
Serial numbers 03316930 through 03344312 are included in this recall and are stamped on the left side of the air pistol's barrel.
Sold by: Sporting goods stores and

gun shops nationwide from July 2006 through February 2008 for about \$250.
Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled air pistols and contact Umarex USA to receive instructions on returning the air pistol for a free repair.
Umarex USA has contacted known purchasers of the air pistol. Consumers who have not received direct notification should contact Umarex USA immediately.
Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact Umarex USA toll-free at (866) 633-2910 anytime, or visit the firm's Web site at www.umarexusa.com
To see this recall on CPSC's Web site, including pictures of the recalled product, visit <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml08/08265.html>.

Publish a photo and message to your senior in special Stripes issue

High school graduation is a time to remember. Announce your senior's graduation in a special Stars and Stripes publication dedicated to the D o D D S graduating class of 2008.
This keepsake publication will be inserted into Stars and Stripes edition June 6. Submit a message of congratulations and/or photo

and surprise that special graduate.
A 4X4 announcement is just \$33. E-mail your message and photo (min. 180 dpi) to: graduation@estripes.osd.mil.
Deadline for submission is 4 p.m. Central European Time Friday. Call DSN 349-8212 or CIV 06155-601-212.



MPs form bond with Polizei cadets

Story and photos by
NICK D'AMARIO
Command Information Chief

The concept of forming a bond between the military police and future German Polizei was presented by Polizei Hauptmeister Gerhard Maenner, a 32-year veteran and the Polizei Liaison Officer co-located within the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr MP station since October 2007, to Sgt. 1st Class Tony Hockensmith.

Hockensmith is a 20-year veteran and former USAG Grafenwoehr provost sergeant. Since Maenner's proposal, he and Hockensmith have since worked the concept into an indepth, well organized experience called "Broadening the Brotherhood."

From May 5-14, the experience was put to the test with 100 Polizei cadets from the Sulzbach-Rosenberg Police Academy, the largest of four academies currently training Polizei officers in Bavaria.

On May 9, 20 cadets from the academy arrived by bus at Rose Barracks for a five-hour experience which included a garrison tour and a series of briefings and iterations at the garrison MP station in Vilseck on traffic patrols, accident response, evidence collection and processing, and more.

The cadets were escorted by German Polizei Capt. Manfred Weiss, deputy chief of the academy's 26th seminar. Weiss, who also teaches criminal law, is a 29-year veteran of the Polizei and typifies the top-notch professional selected for the academy to ensure cadets receive the best possible training.

Only one out of every 25 applicants for the Polizei are actually accepted,



Sgt. 1st Class Tony Hockensmith addresses the German Polizei cadets at Vilseck Rose Barracks.

said Weiss. The majority are college graduates, many have prior military service, and some have even been previously deployed to Afghanistan, very impressive when you consider that the average age of the cadet is in the low twenties.

"The Polizei profession," said Weiss, "is well-respected and offers excellent job security."

According to Matthias Weber, an English teacher at the academy, cadets also experience more than 100 hours of training in English during their two and a half year stint, and learn "common terms for traffic checks in lessons which will help to remove the language barrier."

One of the first iterations in the "Broadening the Brotherhood" experience was with Spc. Nathan Dillon, traffic accident investigator.

Dillon showed the cadets the large array of tools available for MPs to use at the scene of an accident, gave a tour of the "cruiser" MPs use in daily patrols, and an overview of radar devices used in traffic control. Dillon sees this initiative as a "chance for them to see how we function as police officers, making that bond stronger between us," he said.

While all the iterations were educational and informative, the Military Police Investigators segment allowed students to go hands-on and

actively participate in dusting for fingerprints and sobriety testing in the station's patrol room.

The segment was conducted by Christopher Rudzinski, Military Police Investigator, stationed here since August 2007, and a nine-year veteran.

Jan Dauber, a cadet at the academy since September 2007, said he was inspired by his step-father to become a police officer.

About the garrison experience, he said "it's good to hear and understand the job the Military Police do, and also to see the parallels in traffic control."

Another cadet, Thomas Ballhorn, is planning on becoming a criminal police detective, or Kriminalpolizist,

and idolizes his uncle who is a member of KRIPO.

Ballhorn said he'd been to the U.S. three times, but had never seen anything quite like this experience. He said he particularly enjoyed the fingerprinting session with Rudzinski, and has a copy of his own fingerprint from the demonstration.

Sgt. 1st Class Barry Beilhart, a 15-year MP veteran and the garrison's provost sergeant since May 1, said "we're fostering an environment for future, mutual cooperation and peace-keeping, and I look forward to the challenges as the community continues to grow."

"Sgt. 1st Class Hockensmith has left some big shoes to fill – he absolutely does way more than required. He is a very dedicated person," said Beilhart.

Beilhart hails from Reading, Pennsylvania, and is stationed here with his wife, Jocelyn, and two children, Leah, 16, and Courtney, 10. Hockensmith hails from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and will PCS back to Ft. Riley in July with his wife, Tanya, and three children Alania, 19, Angelica, 18, and Tyler, 12.

The Grafenwoehr MP station, comprised of 35 police officers and supported with police patrols from the 709th MP Battalion on a daily basis, has an area of responsibility covering more than 200 square kilometers, and they typically respond to incidents involving U.S. personnel within a 45-minute radius of the main post.

With current plans increasing the garrison's population to nearly 40,000, this initiative is an investment in a long-term, mutually beneficial relationship between German and U.S. military police forces committed to protecting and preserving the safety of our community members.



On May 9, 20 cadets from the academy arrived by bus at Rose Barracks for a five-hour experience that included a garrison tour and a series of briefings and training on traffic patrols, accident response, evidence collection and processing, and more.



May Entertainment: Check it out!



Soldier Show slated for Memorial Day, Grafenwoehr's Galloway to perform the finale

The 2008 U.S. Army Soldier Show will be held at the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Tower theater starting at 6 p.m. (doors open at 5 p.m.) on Monday.

Come watch this spectacular 90-minute Army entertainment production which is "for the Soldier, by the Soldier." Folks in Vilseck can catch a special shuttle bus departing the bus stop near the shopping center commissary at 4:30 p.m. There will be a regularly scheduled shuttle bus also available at 4:55 p.m.

In addition to the regular cast, Grafenwoehr's Sgt. 1st Class Galloway (inset), the garrison's Equal Opportunity advisor, will perform in the Soldier Show finale.

Community recognizes Holocaust Remembrance, Asian Pacific Month

Story and photos by
JOHN REESE
Bavarian News

The U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch community observed two ethnic observances May 9, after scheduling conflicts caused the Holocaust Days of Remembrance to be pushed back and the Asian Pacific Heritage observation to be moved forward.

The educational trip to Dachau Concentration Camp to commemorate the Holocaust Day of Remembrance was originally scheduled for May 2, the first Friday following the 63rd anniversary of the liberation of the camp April 29, 1945 by the New York National Guard 42nd Infantry Division (Mechanized).

The event was postponed due to an anticipated visit by Lt. Gen. Robert Wilson, Commanding General for the Installation Management Command.

The Asian Pacific Heritage observance was originally planned for late May, but was moved forward because of temporary duty conflicts with the USAG Garmisch leadership.

Sadness & Joy

Both distinctly different ethnic observances ended up dovetailing on to the same day, one filled with sadness and reflection at the scene of the terrible inhumanity, the other filled with joy and friendship in the atmosphere of a luau.

The day began with a remembrance candle-lighting ceremony and an informative slide presentation on Dachau by Chaplain (Capt.) Lyle Shackelford at the Garmisch Community Chapel prior to boarding a bus at the Pete Burke Center.

Shackelford had arranged for experienced Garmisch tour guide Keith Eads to lead the group. Eads has visited Dachau too many times to recall, and he proved to be a vast

repository of information, providing the participants with years of knowledge, experience, and anecdotes he learned firsthand from camp survivors and liberators.

Look & Learn

At each point during his tour, Eads allowed sufficient time to let his charges look and learn. The half-day was just enough to see what he felt was most important for the group. It would take years to absorb it all.

The group began the visit by entering the same way all of the prisoners entered—through the Jourhaus, an administrative building for the Gestapo (Nazi political police) with an infamous iron gate bearing the words “Arbeit Macht Frei” (Work Brings Freedom).

Within the gates were hundreds of visitors speaking a polyglot of languages. Many of the groups appeared to be German teenagers.

Eads took the group directly to the theater for an English-language version of a film about the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site. The film contained so many graphic images that it was difficult to watch for some visitors. The policy of the memorial site is to warn visitors about the film’s content in advance and to allow them to make a personal choice about attending the viewing.

There is no restriction on the age of the viewer. The children and teenagers in the Garmisch group, together with their parents, remained together throughout the day.

After the film, the group exited into a narrow, dead-end lane between two buildings, where hangings, firing squad executions, and other tortures took place.

Eads then led the group through a building the prisoners nicknamed “the Bunker,” a long, narrow building of tiny cells for holding special prisoners. The Bunker, one of the first



Garmisch group leader Keith Eads points out the rafters in the main crematorium where victims were moments just before they were cremated.

structures built by the prisoners in the early 1930s, was used for interrogations, torture, medical exams, and out of place, one cell with a portable altar for use by imprisoned German clergy.

Bringing the light

The building had been modified some by U.S. forces and used to house prisoners, said Eads, but for historical purposes the cells had been mostly returned to their state before the liberation. The main difference was that the Americans had added windows to the dank, pitch-black cells.

Back in the daylight, the group crossed the camp, passing rows of long foundations where prisoner barracks once stood. The original wooden structures are long gone, and two replicas were in place to give visitors a look at what conditions were once like.

The 30 barracks were intended to house 250 occupants each; at the time it was liberated, the buildings held about 1,600 to 2,000 each. A few of the gravel foundations had flowers left in memory of a loved one assigned to that particular building. A small unfurled Israeli flag rested alone on one gravel bed.

At the far side of the camp were the crematoriums, the larger of the two designed with air-tight chambers designed to kill about 200 people at a time using poison gas. Eads told of a man he befriended named Martin Zaidenstadt, a Holocaust survivor who told visitors as an unofficial tour guide he’d worked in the crematorium

as his camp job. Zaidenstadt insisted that despite government denials, prisoners were in fact poisoned in the “showers,” something that was only recently acknowledged.

For years Zaidenstadt was at the crematorium daily, sometimes stepping over the chain intended to keep visitors away from the ovens to demonstrate the dark work he performed. When Eads asked him why he returned to Dachau every day, Zaidenstadt said “I promised I’d tell what really happened.”

(Zaidenstadt’s story is detailed in the 1999 book “The Last Survivor: In Search of Martin Zaidenstadt,” by Timothy W. Ryback. Eads noted that this particular book isn’t available at the camp’s bookstore.)

The group saw a few more things Eads knew about that weren’t part of any other tour, such as bullet scars in a patched wall overgrown with ivy that was used to execute prisoners with pistols, and another iron gate used to remove bodies from the camp.

Eads finished the tour after stopping by several religious memorials and the museum before returning.

Little known fact

One of the last bits of information that surprised the group was that Garmisch-Partenkirchen had one of Dachau’s more than 150 subsidiary work camps.

Once back at the Pete Burke Center, the somber mood of the trip was lightened by the Asian Pacific Heritage observance already in progress.

The event opened at 4 p.m. with a reading of the presidential proclamation by Garrison Manager Karin Santos, and then the center’s main hall was filled with Pacific-themed music.

More than 200 members of the garrison and tenant units participated, spilling out of the hall to take advantage of the perfect Alpine weather. Many family members also attended.

Asian cultures

Five different Asian cultures were represented in displays of clothing, art, and the food sampling, with Korean-born Nam Irish leading the culinary team.

The crowd chowed down on specialties such as bul-go-gi (Korean spicy barbecued beef), poke (Hawaiian raw fish salad), adobo (Filipino chicken), Cha gio (Vietnamese shrimp spring rolls), and Japanese sushi. The five tables had additional dishes from that country. Retirees recalled eating the Asian dishes long ago in their home lands.

Irish has a well-deserved reputation for orchestrating ethnic food events, and some participants came from as far away as Heidelberg to enjoy the feast. She spent weeks planning the moment, assembling her team of chefs, and made a trip to Munich to purchase special ingredients not available in remote Garmisch to make the event a great success.

The event lasted well-past the scheduled end-time, closing out a busy day of two extremely different ethnic observances.



Garrison manager Karin H. Santos joins Marissa Polintan, Jessica Robertson, and Sgt. First Class Christopher Allison to make quick work of slicing tropical fruits from different points across the Pacific for dessert as Garmisch celebrated Asian-Pacific Heritage.

Men’s Prayer Breakfast is once again a spiritual, culinary feast

Story and photos by
JOHN REESE
Bavarian News

No cost, reservations or ties required!

Helmut Trautmann served up a feast for the men May 10 at the Garmisch Community Chapel, where he has been cooking for the Men’s Prayer Breakfast for many years.

Trautmann, whose wife Connie works at the adjacent Marshall Center on Sheridan Kaserne, sees his cooking as an act of service to God and to the men attending the chapel.

A self-proclaimed chef, Trautmann works in the local food industry and was in the private restaurant business stateside. Once a month he puts on a spread of flapjacks, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage and more, and his chipped beef—a favorite of “everyone who ever served in the military. He says he uses a special ingredient that makes it indescribably good. One only has to

come to the breakfasts to experience it.

The Men’s Prayer Breakfast is usually the second Saturday of the month, but hungry Soldiers and civilians should double-check with the chapel office. The next opportunity to sample Trautmann’s cuisine will be June 14.

The guest speaker at the May 10 breakfast was retired Army engineer Roger Hogan. He, along with his wife Margaret, has been working to fund and distribute Bibles and basic hygiene kits in Eastern Europe in a project dubbed Operation Centurion.

Hogan spoke of his experiences in Russia, which has military conscription for all 18-year-old males, and the sensitivity of working with a predominately Russian Orthodox clergy.

After breakfast he casually swapped stories about his adventures as a Soldier, particularly during the Gulf War, and his work with the Bundeswehr that led to the awards of Germany’s top service medals.



Guest speaker and retired Army engineer Roger Hogan spoke of Army life and enjoyed the meal.



Helmut Trautmann’s spread of flapjacks, eggs, bacon, and chipped beef draws the crowds for the men’s monthly prayer breakfast.

Days of Remembrance event ensures Holocaust atrocities never forgotten

Story and photo by
KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

We all learned about it at one time or another. Perhaps in a high school or middle school history class.

We watch movies about it every now and then, perhaps "Life is Beautiful" or "Schindler's List." We pause from time to time while admiring the scenic countryside to wonder how something so horrible could happen in a place so beautiful. Then many of us go about our daily lives, forgetting the past.

But some things should never be forgotten, if only to make sure they never happen again.

The Hohenfels Equal Opportunity Office hosted a remembrance ceremony May 6, in keeping with the national desire to never forget the Holocaust, the systematic genocide of an estimated 6 million European Jews during World War II.

In 1979 the United States Congress established the Days of Remembrance as an annual event to commemorate the Holocaust victims. The emphasis for Hohenfel's May 6 ceremony was "Do Not Stand Silent: Remembering Kristallnacht 1938," when the Nazis staged state sanctioned anti-Jewish riots throughout Germany.

"It's important to have remembrances like this because there are those in the world who would tell us that this never happened, and there are fewer and fewer alive to tell their

stories," said Master Sgt. Christopher Mulvihill, Hohenfels Equal Opportunity advisor.

The ceremony began with opening remarks from Mulvihill quoting Dwight D. Eisenhower, who visited the camps personally, and Holocaust survivor and "Night" author Elie Wiesel.

Five candles were lit by attendees in honor of the victims; the candles were immediately blown out, representing the more than 6 million lives that were brutally ended.

A moment of silence followed, then the movie "Faces From the List"—people saved by Oskar Schindler recounting their concentration camps experiences and how they came to be on Schindler's List. The List was created by German industrialist Schindler, who is credited with saving nearly 1,200 Polish Jews by adding their names to his list and having them removed from the labor and death camps and work in his enamelware and ammunitions factories in what is now Poland and the Czech Republic.

Kelli Massey attended the remembrance with her husband and two children. She said she and her son Hunter, 11, had just studied Kristallnacht that same day.

"I felt it was important to bring them. He's got to know; everybody's got to know," she said. "We wouldn't miss it."

Danny Reinick, who has been to many concentration camps in Germany and Poland, said he found the



Sgt. Maj. Michael Massey lifts his daughter Sarah so she can light a candle in honor of Holocaust victims. The oldest and youngest attendees at the Days of Remembrance ceremony, presented by the garrison's EO office, lit a candle.

ceremony thought provoking.

John Lein said things like this remembrance make him wonder "how the hell could all this happen?"

"A member of our community approached me while I was in preparation for this program and asked 'Why do we have to constantly talk about it? Why can't we just put it

behind us and move on?,'" said Mulvihill during his opening remarks. "Good questions indeed. I would ask in return: What about Darfur? What about Kosovo? What about the popular movement to have the Holocaust declared a hoax, that it didn't happen?"

Congress founded the Days of

Remembrance and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum partly in response to those claims that the Holocaust never happened. Watching the testimonies of survivors and participating in events like the Days of Remembrance cannot change the fact that it did, but can ensure it is never forgotten.

Volunteers recognized for more than 64,000 hours, \$1.2 million in service

Story and photo by **KRISTIN BRADLEY**
Bavarian News

If Hohenfels had to pay for the services that were performed by volunteers from April 2007 to March 2008, it would have cost more than \$1.2 million.

On May 7 at the Community Activities Center the Army Volunteer Corps recognized 385 community members who collectively volunteered more than 64,000 hours in the past year, the equivalent of 99 fulltime employees.

Seventeen volunteers recorded more than 500 hours during that time with 12 volunteers recording more than 1,000 hours.

"Volunteerism is about engaging individuals in service, discovering their power to make a difference, and recognizing deserving volunteers. National Volunteer Week along with the Hohenfels Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony reflects the power that volunteers have to inspire by example," said Lori Smith Starnes, Army Volunteer Corps coordinator.

"I volunteer because I love making a difference, and it allows me to build a better connection with the community," said Christina Love, installation civilian volunteer of the year. "Volunteering can be hard work, but it is something I take very seriously. I get to involve my girls in some of the things that I do, and it turns into a wonderful family affair," Love said.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Feltz, installation active duty volunteer of the year, also said that his volunteer activities allow him to spend time with his family while helping the community.

"Basically, I love sports," he said. "My kids play sports all year round, and it's a way for me to volunteer to help others while also spending time with my family."

Feltz has been a volunteer with youth sports since he arrived in Hohenfels in August 2005. Last year he coached football and baseball, was the official score keeper for all the games played at Hohenfels during the Biggs baseball tournament, and is a certified umpire for baseball

and softball.

In addition to being the active duty volunteer of the year, Feltz was also one of the 12 people who volunteered more than 1,000 hours. He said he would not have been able to accomplish that without the support of his brothers on the Timberwolves team and his chain of command.

Finding time to volunteer is hard for most people, but especially the active duty Soldier who often works from sunrise to sunset, or longer.

"You just do (find the time). If everybody claimed to be busy, the community is the one that suffers," said Sgt. 1st Class Paul Nwoga.

Nwoga, along with his wife Carla and children Samuel, 17, and Julie, 16, were recipients of the Installation Volunteer Family of the Year award.

"I can speak for my family when I say we just enjoy giving without thought of gratitude, and that is what my father instilled in me," he said.

Also keeping it in the family were Alicia Duvall, installation volunteer family member of the year and her 12-year-old son, William Duvall V, the installation youth volunteer of the year.

Joshua Feltz, son of installation active duty volunteer of the year Michael Feltz, has also caught the philanthropy bug from his father and received an award at the ceremony for his efforts.

"I just want to make this place a better place, and it's really fun to do," he said.

Captured by an 11-year-old, that was the theme of the day.

Guest speaker Dr. Maria ReGester spoke to the group about being a "blissful volunteer," advising attendees, among other things, to know their limits.

"As long as it comes from the heart it is perfect and will create joy," she said.

She also reminded volunteers to be completely in the moment no matter what the task, and remember that volunteering is a selfless event and not to expect something in return for your actions.

Though, as always, the goal of the annual ceremony was to make sure Hohenfels



William Duvall V, Hohenfels installation youth volunteer of the year, uses a saber to cut the cake at the annual volunteer recognition ceremony May 7 at the Community Activities Center. Last year 385 volunteers donated their time and talents to the Hohenfels community.

volunteers know just how much they are appreciated.

"Volunteering is very rewarding and something you do to help others, not for recognition," said Feltz, "but it is really nice to know others are aware of the impact of what the volunteers do for the community."

Team Apache welcomes new commander

by **KRISTIN BRADLEY**
Bavarian News

Company A, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, the most recent company to return from deployment to Afghanistan, has a new company commander.

During a change of command ceremony May 9, command of Co. A officially passed from Capt. Pongpat (Deck) Piluek to Capt. Kyle Wheeler.

"Decisive, flexible, respected and admired by his Soldiers and peers, Deck proved himself as a commander and leader both here in support of Joint Multinational Readiness Center missions and in Afghanistan in command of team Apache as part of the International Security Assistance Force there," said the battalion commander, Lt. Col. John Lange, of Piluek during the ceremony.

"He mastered the complexity of company command, able to accomplish a myriad of missions with his Soldiers' readiness and welfare in mind. He will be missed in the battalion, but will excel as an (observer/controller) bringing his own experience to the coaching and training JMRC provides units prior to combat deployments."

Piluek, an armor officer, assumed command of Co. A in April 2006 and led the company in Afghanistan between June 2007 and February 2008.

Piluek came to Hohenfels from Camp Casey, South Korea, where he served as a tank platoon leader, tank company executive officer, and headquarters company executive officer. His next assignment will be as an observer/controller with the Grizzly O/C team.

"Aggressive, diligent, smart and focused, Kyle Wheeler is absolutely ready for command," said Lange.

"He put heart and soul into battalion mission planning for the last 10 months, giving this battalion the best options to accomplish the many mission challenges we engage daily. I am looking forward to seeing Kyle and Apache Company grow over the tenure of his command."

Wheeler was assigned to Fort Drum, New York, before coming to Hohenfels. While assigned there he deployed in support of OIF 1 and OIF 2.5.

Wheeler's initial assignment in Hohenfels was with the Warhog Team and in July 2006 he became an assistant S-3 with 1-4 Infantry.

Visit <http://www.hohenfels.army.mil/> today to learn more about what's going on in your community!

Garrison May pole salutes spring, tradition

Story and photo by
KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

Bldg. 10 has a new adornment to welcome visitors and new community members.

A traditional German May pole or Maibaum wrapped in Bavarian colors and topped with images from the Hohenfels community was raised in front of the Central Processing Facility April 30.

Jesus Cabredo, central processing facility manager, and Gerry Ragle, director of human resources, resurrected the pole from Bldg. 317 where it had been sitting unused for years, having once belonged to a German unit stationed at Hohenfels more than 40 years ago.

“My motivation to go all the way is when I realized what the May pole symbolizes—the work force that has

been supporting our community for years, who’s always in the shadows, continuously doing the work for years and seldom recognized.

So what better way to salute and thank them? Raise the Maypole and make a meaningful, long lasting memory event for the community,” said Cabredo.

Each town and village in Germany raises its own May pole May 1 in celebration of the beginning of spring. Traditionally, the shields on a May pole represent the town’s artisans and craftsman.

The shields on the Hohenfels pole include the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels, and various sections of the Department of Public Works. Artwork was completed by Sgt. Karl Overman of the JMRC Viper team.

In keeping with tradition, a team of 11 men from the community, some in

traditional Bavarian dress, used long wooden poles to raise the May pole.

“It used to be, though I don’t think it is like this much any more, that the unmarried women of the town made the wreath that goes around the top,” said Norbert Wittl, garrison public affairs specialist and long time resident of the town of Hohenfels.

According to Wittl, the boys of the town are in charge of staying up all night the night before the pole is raised to guard it from the boys of neighboring towns who come to steal it.

If the pole is stolen, the town must present items for ransom, such as beer, before it will be returned.

Though no one came in the dark of night to steal the installation’s May pole, it is a traditional symbol of the region that welcomes newcomers to the Bavarian region and the small town that is U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels.



Men from in and around the Hohenfels community raise the May pole using the traditional method with long wooden poles April 30 in front of Bldg. 10. Each German town raises a May pole on May 1 to welcome spring.

KONTAKT receives USAREUR awards for fostering friendships, praised by members for culture exchange

by **KRISTIN BRADLEY**
Bavarian News

Jimmy Frazao says his family has two generations in love with what they’re doing with KONTAKT Club, and U.S. Army Europe is pretty thrilled with it, too.

Frazao, his wife Gabi, and 17-year-old daughter Kim, along with other KONTAKT members Anna Maynard, Heinrich Bossle, Karl Scharl, and Robert Neumeier, are recipients of Individual High Achievement Awards given by USAREUR in recognition of their work with KONTAKT Club.

Oliver and Carina Halder were awarded the Outstanding Civilian Service Award for non-members for their help setting up the club Web site and assisting with special events.

“I was really excited and happy they thought of me,” said Maynard, the club’s American president.

“It’s fantastic,” said Frazao, the club’s German president. “It’s showing us what we’re trying to do for the community and friendship is having a result. Not only are people coming to have fun, but other clubs are seeing that we’re doing something.”

The KONTAKT Club, an official USAREUR public relations program since 1969, is a way for Americans and Germans to get together to forge friendships, have fun, and learn about each

other’s culture.

Kurt Rager, a military spouse, said he and his wife began going to club events to make friends.

“We want to leave Germany having met and been friends with Germans. The Germans in KONTAKT Club seem to love Americans. They want to know about Americans as much as we want to know about Germans,” he said.

He said KONTAKT is the best way to experience Germany, meet real people who can answer your questions, and help make you familiar with the area you’re living in.

“We want to leave Germany having met and been friends with Germans.”

Kurt Rager
Military spouse and KONTAKT member

Like many club members, Kirschendauer, who works in Regensburg, said he joined to improve his English and learn more about American culture, which he loves.

Like many club members, Kirschendauer and Rager have become friends, often getting together with other friends, German and American alike, outside of club events.

Frazao, who also has a 12-year-old daughter, and Maynard, who has a 2-year-old son, both said one of the best things about KONTAKT Club is that it is for the entire family.

“My son is 2, and it’s so good for him. He

learns other languages and hears stories we didn’t grow up with,” said Maynard, who is of Mexican descent and, along with her son, also speaks Spanish.

Though some KONTAKT-ers are tri-lingual, at any given KONTAKT event there are Germans who don’t know English and Americans who don’t know German, yet language barriers appear nonexistent.

“There are lots of people who speak both, so it’s not a problem. Whoever wants to come is welcome. Even if you aren’t good with either, we are about having a good time,” said Frazao, who also speaks Portuguese and is fond of sharing both his German and Portuguese heritage.

Maryl Neff, Hohenfels American Red Cross assistant station manager, said she values being able to practice her German in a warm and accepting environment.

“The Germans in the KONTAKT Club are very patient with my limited language skills, and they’re willing to help anyone who wants help,” she said. “The truth is that English is widely spoken by just about everyone there, so if

people don’t speak any German, they should not let this stop them from attending. If you want to be there, the members are happy to have you there.”

Twice a month, the club holds a Stammtisch, an informal gathering, usually at a local restaurant like Josef’s in Hohenfels. They gather on post for events such as bowling and line dancing and plan a wide variety of events off post that are always family friendly and, American members say, the best way to discover the unique things this area has to offer.

In February, the club went ice skating in Regensburg, and in April they hiked from Rohrbach to Café Kuhstall. In May they are planning a trip to tour a local power plant, and on June 14 they will spend the day in Fischbach, a small town near Regensburg. Members pay yearly dues of 25 Euros per family or 17 Euros for individuals.

Members receive discounts at certain events, like the hike to Café Kuhstall which cost 8 Euros for non-members and 6 Euros for members and included a drink, soup, bread, and a torch for the night walk back to Rohrbach.

Anyone who wishes to attend KONTAKT Club events does not have to pay dues before checking it out.

For more information, call Christina Wilson, public affairs liaison, at DSN 466-4294 or visit www.kontakt-hohenfels.com.

Traveling theater brings fun, consistency to military children

Story and photo by
KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

Missoula Children’s Theater came to Hohenfels May 4 with everything they needed to put on a play—sets, costumes, props, and directors, ... but no cast.

By May 10, they had auditioned and cast 49 Hohenfels children from kindergarten to high school who, after just four days of rehearsal, presented two performances of MCT’s version of Robin Hood.

When MCT comes to town, “our kids will drop everything they’re doing sports wise, and this is their main focus for the week,” said Charles Perryman, whose children have participated for three years in MCT productions.

MCT has been touring throughout the United States and overseas for more than 30 years.

Two adult actor/directors tour in three month periods bringing the MCT mission of “developing life skills in children through participation in the performing arts” to communities throughout the world, said Chelle Robinson, one of the directors that came to Hohenfels.

“At the end of the week they take with them skills they have learned in

teamwork, communication, and fun,” said Robinson, noting that MCT offers unique benefits for military children.

Robinson thinks MCT offers a bit of needed continuity to the lives of military children who often face big changes, like frequent moves, more often than their civilian counterparts.

No matter where they are stationed, MCT probably goes to that post, allowing them to participate in something familiar.

During this year’s tour, Robinson said they had a child in the show in Kaiserslautern who had previously been in one of her shows in Okinawa, Japan.

Sixth-grader Lindsey Stone, who was in her third MCT play this year, said she was also part of MCT productions of Little Red Riding Hood and The Little Mermaid when she lived in Aviano, Italy.

Though Robinson thinks MCT offers additional benefits to the military child, she said it doesn’t seem like the children themselves are any different in military communities than they are in the civilian world.

“These kids go through different things than civilian kids do, but it’s amazing to me what kids in general can overcome,” said Robinson. “We see that every week no matter who we’re



Prince John’s guards take a bow during the Missoula Children Theater’s production of Robin Hood at the Hohenfels Community Center. Forty-nine Hohenfels youth, from kindergarten to high school, put on a full scale musical with just four days from casting to performance.

working with.”

“It boosts confidence and helps them discover talents they maybe didn’t know they had,” said mother Candace Perryman, who thinks the directors have a lot to do with the tour’s success.

“It’s amazing what they can

accomplish. (The directors) keep the kids motivated, so it’s fun for them,” said Perryman. “They always have such positive attitudes and know how to work with kids of all ages.”

Devin Booker, a second-grader, said he liked performing because “you get to act, and no matter if you make

mistakes, you are still good at it.”

“This is fun! I can’t wait to do it next year,” said six-year-old Kylie Moczynski.

And thanks to Missoula Children’s Theater, she doesn’t have to know where she will be next year to start looking forward to it now.



Juan Agosto



Robert Ahlers



Sean Anderson



Felicia Avery

Alannah
BabautaJennifer
Bergweiler

Dustin Bonter

Mickey Bruner
Jr.

Kevin Bryan



Jeri Calder



Anna Carriker



Shane Castro



Emily Cavalier



Larisa Chavez



Curtis Cruz



Nicholas DeLeon



John Fassett



April Feazelle



Joshua Frank



Anna Fulghum

Demario
Galbreath

Michael Gilliam



Jordan Goree



Zachary Green



Ivan Griffin



Keisha Haddix

Sha'Quana
HarmonMatthew
HerrimanChantel
Hickman

Joshua Hubbard



Justin Ingram



Earl Jefferson III



Eileen Jones

Michael Jones
Jr.Christian
KendzierskiStephanie
KozmaWhitney
Krajcovic

Rebecca Lamp



Lemuel Lee



Nikoleta Lewis



Daniel Lonowski



Kelsey Lynn

Remington
McCarthy

Lea McGaffin

Angelica
McKinnisMercedes
McLaughlin

Tara Meier

Stephanie
Mooney

Michelle Morris



Chi-Kobi Murry

Stephen
Newbauer

Jasmine Nixon



Jacquiese Oliver



Justin Oney

Natscha
Provence

Ramon Ramirez



Tim Ray



Chase RisCassi



Dara Rodgers

Stephanie
RodriguezChristopher
Ruiz

Steven Rye



Cassidy Salyer



Jalisa Sanders

Katherine
Schaffer

Estelle Snoddy



Nolan Stark



Eric Stohler



Khiry Taylor



Victor Ursu

Christopher
Vertz

Michael Welch



TJ Whitehead

Rebecca
Womack


Kenneth Zeier

NOT PICTURED:
Raymond Letrouneau
Trevor Pearman
Rebel Miller

**Congratulations
VHS graduates!**

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Logan Allen | Teia Atkins | Minerva Bermudez | April Buchanan | Bianca Camp | Mark Caples | Ceasare Colantuono | Stephanie Collins | Jamie Cox |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Allison Deane | Chris Elliott | April Evans | Kaizamar Feliciano | Chris Fisher | Martin Fuks | Joshua Garcia | Branden Germer | Lucas Hoss |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ryan Matheson | Brittany Merriweather | Samuel Nwoga | Isaia Falealii Ofisa | Dameon Odum | Dana Parks | Sunny Petery | Shaun Redden | Natalie Reed |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Augusto Rivera | Joyce Rollins | Russ Starnes | Randy Taylor | Michael Tillberg | Brianna Tolbert | Patrick Van Fleet | Stephen Vandal | Dennis Vass |
|  |  | | | | | | | |
| Kristi-Rene Welch | Kelsey Young | | | | | | | |

Munich International Class of 2008

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---------------------------------------|
|  |  |  | NOT PICTURED: Tyler Wiegand |
| Todd Brown | Ionela Ussery | Erin Embler | |

Congratulations to
the Hohenfels High School
and Garmisch's
Munich International graduates!

What’s Happening

Grafenwoehr/Vilseck Briefs

Free comedy show

Comedian Bernie McGrenahan’s “Happy Hour” Tour, comes to the Tower Theater in Grafenwoehr June 5, with two shows 10-11 a.m. and 2-3 p.m. Bernie shares all his “inside tips” to avoid high-risk drinking.

This is a stand-up comedy show, followed by a powerful and inspirational message, is ideal for all Soldiers and students at risk for alcohol and drug abuse. Avoidance of drinking and driving will be emphasized in this comedy show.

The Grafenwoehr Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program invites all members of the Grafenwoehr community to attend this free comedy show.

Send a free message to Dad with Stars and Stripes

Stars and Stripes is now accepting Father’s Day messages. Messages received by June 2 will be published in the Middle East, Europe, and Pacific editions June 15, Father’s Day. Greetings will also be online at Stripes.com. Please visit [Stripes.com](http://www.strips.com) for more details and to see the publishing schedule.

General election reminder

The November 4 general election is less than 200 days away. Uniformed and overseas citizens are encouraged to visit www.fvap.gov for information on voting by absentee ballot. Or, for more information on the Army Voting Assistance Program, go to http://www.army.mil/usapa/epubs/pdf/r608_20.pdf.

CTC courses

Central Texas College Vilseck/Grafenwoehr is offering the following three vocational-technical courses in the upcoming Term 5: AUMT 1419 – Automotive Engine Repair (4 credit hours); CDEC 1356 – Emergent Literacy for Early Childhood (3 credit hours); and CJSA 1359 – Police Systems & Practices (3 credit hours). All three classes are classroom-based and lead to an Associate in Applied Science degree.

Classes will be held in Vilseck or Grafenwoehr. Term 5 registration runs through June 6. The term dates are June 9 – August 2. Contact CTC field representative Chuck Sligh at the Vilseck or Grafenwoehr Education Center for more information on these and other educational opportunities at DSN 476-2362 or CIV 09662-83-2362 (Vilseck on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays), DSN 475-6702 or CIV 09641-83-6702 (Grafenwoehr on Mondays and

Wednesdays), or by e-mail at vilseck@europe.ctcd.edu.

UMUC course registration

University of Maryland University College Europe announces Term 5 registration through June 6.

Condensed into six weeks to accommodate busy, summertime schedules, the Term 5 program offers students more flexibility while maintaining academic quality. On-site courses begin June 9 and are offered in innovative formats including weekends, weekdays, and hybrids – a format combining on-site with online instruction. Students may obtain a listing of Term 5 undergraduate and graduate courses at www.ed.umuc.edu.

Students can access online courses through UMUC’s award winning WebTycho learning platform and earn certificates or associate’s, bachelor’s or master’s degree. A list of DE courses is available online.

Dental Assistant Training Program

The Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels and Vilseck Dental Clinics, along with the American Red Cross, will be offering a Dental Assistant Training Program beginning in July.

The program is designed for those without dental assisting experience and requires 62 hours of in-class coursework and 300 hours of chair-side training. Applications may be found at your local American Red Cross office. All applications for the program are due no later than Friday.

2008 Soldier Show comes to Grafenwoehr

The Soldier Show will be held at the Grafenwoehr Tower theater starting at 6 p.m. (doors open at 5 p.m.) Monday. Admission is free. Come watch this spectacular 90-minute Army Entertainment Production which is “for the Soldier, by the Soldier.” Folks in Vilseck can catch a special shuttle bus departing the bus stop near the shopping center commissary at 4:30 p.m. There will be a regularly scheduled shuttle bus also available at 4:55 p.m.

Due to the U.S. Army Soldier Show and the required preparation, the previously scheduled movies at the AAFES Grafenwoehr Tower Theater Sunday and Monday May will be cancelled.

Library Kit Kittredge program

The Grafenwoehr and Vilseck Libraries kicked off the Kit Kittredge program May 1, which will run through June 30. From May 1 through June 30, authorized Army MWR patrons ages 6-16 are invited to visit their post library

to check out the Kit Kittredge book display and to learn more about how they can win the trip or a set of Kit Kittredge An American Girl books. They can also enter in the online sweepstakes and get a sneak peak at the movie at www.ArmyMWR.com.

Missoula Children’s Theatre

A professional production team will present a weeklong workshops for youth, culminating in a Saturday performance of a beloved classic.

Auditions are Tuesday at 4 p.m., rehearsals are Tuesday-May 29 at 4 p.m., dress rehearsal May 30 at 4 p.m., and the final production will be performed May 31 at 3 p.m. in the Vilseck High School auditorium.

All children, in grades K – 12, are welcome to audition. Final production is open to the community. For more information, call Rhonda Tillery at DSN 476-2556.

Hohenfels Briefs

Credit Reports 101

What credit reports are, when to begin repairing bad credit, and some very valuable identity theft prevention tips. Attend from 9-11 a.m. tomorrow at ACS, Bldg. 10. For more information call Rachael Sosa, Financial Readiness Program manager, at DSN 466-3401.

Key caller training

May 22: This workshop provides the training necessary to become a successful Family Readiness Group leader. The topic for this workshop will be about the Key Caller which teaches the FRG leader how to provide timely official information from command, disseminate information about FRG and unit events, and be a resource to help solve a problem or issue.

Reserve your spot at the Yellow Ribbon Room, Bldg. 10 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Call Eva Garrett, Mobilization and Deployment Program manager, at DSN 466-2081 for more information.

Little Troopers playgroup

An interactive and educational playgroup designed to teach parents developmentally appropriate play and help children improve social, cognitive and motor skills. Emphasis is on children with special needs. Join the playgroup from 9-11 a.m. Friday at the Zone.

For more information call Pam Roark, Exceptional Family Member Program coordinator, at DSN 466-2083.

2008 U.S. Army Soldier Show

The 2008 U.S. Army Soldier Show’s 25th anniversary tour will perform June 5 at USAG Hohenfels. The show at the Hohenfels Middle/High School is scheduled to open at 7 p.m. for the 90-minute song-and-dance extravaganza and admission is free.

This year’s Soldier Show is a high-energy, live musical review showcasing the talents of active duty Soldiers who were selected by audition from throughout the Army. They are amateur artists who have a passion for music, dance and performing.

For the eighth consecutive year, the Army National Guard is the primary sponsor and partner of the U.S. Army Soldier Show, one of more than 100 programs and services provided to Soldiers and their families by the Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command.

Freedom Team Salute is a first-time partner and AT&T returns as a corporate sponsor for the fifth straight year.

Mother’s Day bingo

Come join the fun on starting at 6:30 p.m. May 30. Bingo packets are \$25 sold prior to 3 p.m. on Friday and \$30 sold at the door. There will also be a surprise giveaway.

Facility closure for quarterly CY5 training day

All CY5 facilities will be closed Friday for the quarterly CY5 training day, which coincides with the USAREUR training holiday. Alternative care will be provided by FCC for this day.

For information on available providers call the FCC office at DSN 466-3221/3501.

YS tackle football camp

Youth Sports is hosting a Tackle

Football Camp for children ages 7-12 years old. The camp will be held from June 27-29 at the High School football field and is free to youth that enrolled in CYS and have a current sports physical on file.

Enrollment for this event will be held at CLEO’s, Bldg. 10A. For more information call Youth Sports at DSN 466-2488/2558/2479.

Temporary tax office closure

The Hohenfels Tax office will be closed Friday through June 9, but will resume normal business hours on June 10. The tax office will now be open until Dec. 31 for any tax advice, tax return amendments or filing services for Soldiers deployed through the tax filing deadline.

However, to ensure you will get the economic stimulus package, all 2007 tax returns must be filed by Oct. 15. For more information or to make an appointment call the tax office at DSN 466-2836.

Raising Sons of Character

All Hohenfels Community Fathers with sons ages 5 to 18 are invited to participate in this chaplain sponsored event. The event starts at 5 p.m. June 20 and ends at noon June 22.

Guest Speakers are John LaNoue and retired Major League Baseball Pitcher Brian Hickerson. The event is open to all faith groups. The event which is limited to 120 participants includes training, obstacle course, baseball clinic and game. In the event that your spouse is deployed you as a parent can act as the other parent and bring your child to this event.

All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian during the entire event. For more information or to sign up call Chaplain (Capt.) Robert Crowley at DSN 466-3031/2482.

Wilderness first aid class

The next wilderness first aid class is in Vilseck June 13 (5-8 p.m.), June 14 (9 a.m. – 5 p.m.), and June 15 (8 a.m. – 1 p.m.).

Part of the Sunday session may be held outside if the weather permits. This 16-hour course combines classroom lecture, skills practice, and real-life scenarios to teach detail-oriented response steps and treatment of injuries and illnesses in a delayed-help situation. Cost is \$90 per person.

Garmisch Briefs

White-water rafting trip

It’s big water time folks, the water is huge! The snow may be melting, but it can still be so much fun! This is the other reason we love life in the mountains. All that white stuff turns into a liquidly

brown torrent of pure adrenaline!

May 31 we will go to the Inn River in Austria, one of the most popular rivers in Europe.

Bring Euro because our rafting center in Haiming makes an awesome grill fest afterwards.

Time: Departs Burke Center 8 a.m. returns 5 p.m.

Fee: \$90, Adults, \$70, Youth (ages 14-17). Includes transportation and all equipment.

Rating: Advanced, (Class 3 rapids), 14 years old and up.

What to Bring: Swim suit, (under the wetsuit), towel, tennis shoes or Teva’s for the boat, and Euro for food, drink, and merriment afterwards.

Climb the mighty Zugspitze June 7-8

At least once in your life you have to conquer Germany’s highest peak. At 2966 meters, it’s 2200 meters higher than we are, and 1100 meters above the tree line! It has two glaciers, two major cable cars from two countries and has sheer cliffs on three sides. It creates at least two rivers, which in turn carved the Partnach and Hoellental gorges. It is truly amazing.

Imagine standing at the historic cross and saying “yeah, I climbed this.”

We’ll take two days to get there. Saturday we hike six-eight hours starting at the Partnachklamm through the stunning Reintal valley. We’ll stay at the Reintalangerhutte, guests of Charlie Wehrle, one of the most colorful hut owners in the Alps. Sunday is a shorter-but-steeper hike to the Zugspitzplatt glacier, where the ski area is. From there you can call it a day and pass up the scary part with the Gletscher Bahn, or scale the harrowing “Klettersteig” to the cross.

Rating: Moderate to Advanced. Age 16 and up. 15-18 k’s long, 2205m vertical. ODR can provide your climbing gear and hiking poles.

Fee: \$160 per person includes overnight stay in a Huette with breakfast, cable car ride back down, equipment, guide, and adrenaline!

Time: Saturday 8 a.m. - Sunday 5 p.m., from the Burke Center

What to Bring: Euro to cover meals, snacks, and souvenirs, outdoor clothing, sturdy hiking

Climb Munich’s Olympic Stadium June 18



Imagine climbing on the Munich Olympic Stadium and watching the sunset over Munich! A fully guided tour will take you through all of the catwalks and rooftops of the stadium. Rappel down at the end, (if you dare)!

Fee: \$70; Departs Burke Center 4 - 10 p.m.

What to Bring: Sturdy shoes, (no sandals) comfortable clothing. Equipment is provided.

2SCR Regimental Birthday Celebration

172 YEARS STRONG



For the Vilseck and Grafenwoehr Community

May 23

Time: 1500-2000


Children Games

Birthday Announcement, Cake Cutting at 1836

Please call Sgt. Rudy Ledesma for more information
DSN 476-5812 or CIV 09662-83-5842





Free Admission!

THE 2008 ARMY SOLDIER SHOW



FOR THE SOLDIER ★ BY THE SOLDIER

An Army Entertainment Production



TIME & DATE: Memorial Day May 26, 2008 at 6 p.m.
LOCATION: AAFES Tower Theater Grafenwoehr

What’s Happening

Ansbach Briefs

Fuel card awareness

Get updated on the new fuel ration cards for Germany May 30 at 1 p.m. at the Illesheim Theater. IMCOM-E’s new fuel ration card experts will explain all there is to know about the new program. Cards for currently registered vehicles will be distributed to military communities across Germany in advance and will be activated within USAG Ansbach July 7-20.

For more information on the new fuel ration cards, got to <http://www.imcom-europe.army.mil/sites/news/fuelcard.asp>.

Get updated on housing

The garrison hosts a housing town hall meeting Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the Illesheim Theater. This meeting offers information on housing concerns and the opportunity to air concerns and ask questions to the housing staff. For more information, call Pamela Allen at DSN 467-3414 or CIV 09802-83-3414.

Getting read for Subway

AAFES is getting ready to bring Subway to Illesheim and is closing the American Eatery permanently. Anthony’s Pizza remains open to serve customers in the food court. For more information, call the Illesheim areas support team, at DSN 467-4515 or CIV 09841-83-4515.

Paintball tourneys

The Katterbach Canyon paintball facility hosts a tournament May 31. Cost for team registration is \$175. Teams will vie to be the best of the season with trophies awarded to the top three teams.

The tournament is open to people ages 14 and older. Minors younger than 18 must have a waiver completed by their parents on the day of play.

To register or get more information, call outdoor recreation at DSN 467-3225 or CIV 09802-83-3225.

Operation Home Sweet Barracks

412th Aviation Support Battalion Family Readiness Group hosts a bingo night Friday at the Longbow Lounge in Storck Barracks in support of Operation Home Sweet Barracks. Operation Home Sweet Barracks is an initiative of 412th ASB FRG’s to ensure single Soldiers come to a clean and nice made-up barracks room when redeploying.

“We have a mission; to make sure all our single Soldiers come home to the same warm welcoming as our married Soldiers,” said Yvonne Schlangen D-Company, 412th ASB family readiness group leader.

Doors open at 5:15 p.m., the first session kicks off at 6 p.m., the second at 7:30 p.m. Cost for each session are \$10.

In addition, over 25 prizes will be raffled of this evening. Everyone who brings a standard bed pillow will receive 10 raffle tickets free of charge. For more information on the event or Operation

Home Sweet Barracks, contact Yvonne Schlangen at CIV 0170-239-3102.

American Idol Karaoke

Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosts free American Idol Karaoke Friday from 6-8 p.m. at the Von Steuben Community Recreation Center on Bismarck Kaserne.

For more on the event, call DSN 467-2925 or CIV 09802-83-2925.

Register to vote

The Army’s Voting Assistance Program aims to ensure that Soldiers, their families and DoD civilians overseas can exercise their right to vote.

The USAG Ansbach Voting Assistance Program officers are Mohammad Alkadri and Scott Hamilton. Absentee ballots can be applied for by filling out the federal postcard application.

The form is available at the garrison command group or can be downloaded at <http://www.fvap.gov>.

The Web site also features an automated federal postcard application. Filling out the form not only registers voters for an absentee ballot, but it also registers them to vote in federal, state and local elections.

For more information, call Alkadri at DSN 468-7730 or CIV 0981-183-730.

Wiggles and Giggles

Army Community Service’s Wiggles and Giggles Playgroup and parent support group meets Thursdays from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Von Steuben Community Recreation Center.

ACS welcomes parents with children between the ages of 0 and 3 to bring their children for a fun time playing and making new friends.

For more on the group, call DSN 467-2516 or CIV 09802-83-2516.

Knitting know-how

Cobbled Corner Crafts offers its beginning knitting class Sundays from 2-4 p.m. at its shop on Barton Barracks. Cost is \$10.

For more information, call Cobbled Corner Crafts at DSN 468-7627 or CIV 0981-183-627.

Pet exercise program

The USAG Ansbach Veterinary Clinic offers a pet wellness program that includes nutritional guidance, ideas for increasing physical activity and monthly weigh-ins to track pets’ progress.

The clinic also offers weekly walks Thursdays from noon to 1 p.m.

For more information, call the clinic at DSN 467-3179 or CIV 09802-83-3179.

Car inspections

The automotive skills centers on Barton Barracks and Storck Barracks in Illesheim offer free 110-point safety inspections on people’s cars.

The free checks and inspections cover all of the systems, belts, lights, tires, brakes, and glass for serviceability and safety.

For more information, call the Barton

center at DSN 468-7662 or CIV 0981-183-662, or the Storck center at DSN 467-4608 or CIV 09841-83-4608.

School immunizations

The Katterbach Clinic immunizations nurse will visit schools over the next few months to make sure all students are properly immunized.

The nurse will visit:

- Ansbach Middle/High School June 4 at 8:30 a.m.
- Rainbow Elementary June 3 at 8:30 a.m.
- Ansbach Elementary June 4 at 12:30 p.m.

For more information, call your child’s schools.

Bamberg Briefs

Asian Pacific Islander Luau

Share the spirit of the islands at the annual Asian-PI Luau Sat. May 31 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the JFK Multiplex.

Commissary case lot sale

The commissary and AAFES will hold a case lot sale from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Health Clinic closures

The Bamberg Health Clinic will be closed Friday, Monday for Memorial Day weekend and May 30 for organizational day. For more information contact DSN 469-8619.

TMP closed this weekend

The TMP office will be closed from tomorrow through Monday for Memorial Day weekend. Be sure to get your fuel coupons, dispatch or vehicle reservation/service before tomorrow.

Clinic Pharmacy closure

The Bamberg Health Clinic pharmacy will be closed June 13 for training.

Win Prizes with Kit Kittredge

Calling all American Girls! Visit your post MWR library during May and June and learn how you can win a great “Kit Kittredge An American Girls” prize as well as an all-expense paid shopping spree to an American Girl store! Program is open to children ages 6-16. You can also log on to www.ArmyMWR.com for details and a chance to win the grand prize valued over \$1,000! Watch a trailer of the movie at <http://www.americangirl.com/movie>.

CTC courses

Central Texas College offers a variety of degree programs that can be completed entirely online or in the classroom. Bamberg programs include: Criminal Justice, Legal Assistant, Hospitality Management, Military Science, Early Childhood Education, and Automotive Technology.

Term V classroom class registration is through May 30. Come see your CTC field representative, Sonia Rivera, in the Bamberg Education Center Room 311.

For more information call DSN 469-7467, CIV 0951-300-7467, or look online at bamberg@europe.ctcd.edu.

Dental Clinic services limited

Family member dental services will be limited to exams and cleanings beginning Aug. 1 due to reintegration. For more information, contact the Dental Clinic at DSN 469-1720 or CIV 0951-300-1720.

Free Crash Dance concert

Crash Dance will perform latin and R&B top 40 at a dance party Monday at 7:30 p.m. at the Stable Theater. Admission is free. For more information, contact CIV 0951-300-8647.

Schweinfurt Briefs

2008 Soldier Show

Come celebrate 25 years of performances by attending the 2008 Army Soldier Show at the Finney Fitness Center tomorrow at 7 p.m. Spend an evening listening to quality song and dance put on for the Soldier by the Soldier.

Remember Memorial Day

Celebrate the lives and sacrifices of our Heroes in Arms by attending the Memorial Day ceremony at the 172nd Brigade headquarters flagpole on Conn Barracks Monday.

The ceremony begins at 11 a.m. Free food and drinks are served at the Conn Community Club terrace starting at noon. The event is open to the community.

Crash Dance free in concert

Come to a free concert by “Crash Dance” at Finney Fitness Center Sunday starting at 6 p.m. Enjoy sets of rhythm and blues, funk, the top hits, and music from the ‘80s.

Shop at bazaar

Shop at Morale, Welfare, and Recreation’s upcoming bazaar held at Finney Fitness Center on Conn Barracks May 30-June 1. The bazaar is open to all U.S. I.D. card holders.

Run for fun

Join the D-Day Fun Run at Kessler Field May 31. Registration before the race runs from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. and the run begins at 9 a.m.

Scrapbook all night

Like to scrapbook? Participate in the community scrapbook crop May 30 in the 172nd classroom next to Conn CMR. The event runs from 6 p.m. to midnight and costs \$10 for dinner, hourly door prizes, and an instructional class. For more information, call CIV 09721-96-6141, or DSN 354-6141.

Learn the German language

Want to learn how to speak German? Sign up for Army Community Service’s free beginning German language class starting June 2.

Class is held Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for 12 sessions at Ledward’s Yellow Ribbon Room and runs from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

For more information, or to sign up, call DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6933.

Play Bunco

Morale, Welfare, and Recreation hosts, “It’s Bunco Time” at the Finney Sports and Leisure Center on Conn Barracks May 29. Games begin at 6 p.m. All I.D. card holders 18 or older are invited to attend.

Win fabulous prizes like gift cards from popular stores. All participants will be entered into a grand prize drawing for a \$4,000 spa gift card or a second place \$500 spa gift card.

For more information or to sign up, call DSN 353-8476 or CIV 09721-96-8476. Walk-ins are welcome.

Case lot sale at Commissary

Come find great deals in large quantities at the Schweinfurt Commissary’s case lot sale Saturday and Sunday. The commissary is open regular business hours: Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Take advantage of this opportunity to purchase merchandise in bulk at discounted prices.

Crafts Studio fieldtrips

Join the Ledward Crafts Studio on fieldtrips to craft and flea markets. Sign

up for the next trip May 31 to a night flea market in Coburg. Trip departs the studio at 5 p.m. and returns approximately at 10 p.m.

Or, come along June 1 to see the flea market in Sickendorf. Trip departs at 8 a.m. and returns at approximately 6 p.m. For more information, or to sign up, call DSN 354-6903 or CIV 09721-96-6903.

Unit challenge runs until July

The Army Family Team Building Unit Challenge has begun and you and your family can participate to bring your unit to victory.

By taking AFTB classes, not only will Soldiers receive promotion points and gain knowledge, but it will also give points to the battalion for the competition. The challenge runs until July 4, and the winner will be announced at the Fourth of July celebration. Soldiers, spouses, and children may participate.

For a list of classes, call Army Community Service at DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6933 or e-mail jennifer.litchfield@eur.army.mil.

Enjoy Schweinfurt festival

Come to the Schweinfurter Volksfest in the parking lot across from Askren Manor Friday through June 2. Enjoy carnival rides, games, and food.

- Friday – Opening ceremonies, 5:30 p.m.; fireworks, 10:30 p.m.
- Monday – Ladies night: every woman gets a surprise and most rides are reduced to 1 euro
- May 28 – Family day: from 2-8 p.m. entry tickets are half-price
- May 30 – Children’s parade, 3:30 p.m.; balloon launch competition, 4:30 p.m.; drawing competition, 5 p.m.
- June 1 – Oldies night, 6 p.m.
- June 2 – Fireworks, 10:30 p.m.

Bulk trash picked up

Bulk trash is scheduled to be picked up from Askren Manor, Yorktown Village, and government-leased housing Tuesday. Please put bulk items out prior to 7 a.m. on day of pick-up but no earlier than the day before.

Bulk trash is only those items too large to transport in your vehicle. For more information, call SORT coordinator Brad Posey at DSN 354-6201 or CIV 0162-270-9403.

Orientation for newcomers

Are you new to the Schweinfurt community? If so, then the five-day Schweinfurt Newcomers Awareness Program June 2-6 is the fit for you. Free childcare is available the entire week. Get acquainted with the military community as well as the German town of Schweinfurt. For more information or to sign up, call DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6933.

Saturday respite care

Do you need a break from the kids to run errands or just relax at home? Sign up now for Child and Youth Services’ Super Saturday Respite Care June 14. Children ages 6 weeks to fifth-grade will be cared for from 9:30 to 2:30 p.m.

School Age Services costs \$12 and the Child Development Center costs \$16. The program includes one meal. Children must be registered with CYS and also have current immunizations.

Reservation deadline is June 6. Call CYS central registration for more information at DSN 354-6517 or CIV 09721-96-6414.

Socialize at the Lunch Bunch

Do you want to get out of the house, make a few new friends, and learn where good restaurants are around town? The Army Community Service monthly Lunch Bunch is the perfect fit.

Schweinfurt’s Lunch Bunch takes place May 29 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sign up for the carpool or call to get directions to the restaurant at DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6933. Experience a little of the German culture with an English-speaking guide to help you translate the menu. Children are welcome! Bring euro for lunch.

Join adult book club

The community is invited to attend the adult book club at Ledward Library on the last Thursday of each month. The next meeting is May 29 at 5:15 p.m. to discuss the book, “Water for Elephants.”

The month of June book selection is, “Eat, Pray, Love: One woman’s search for everything across Italy, India, and Indonesia,” by Elizabeth Gilbert, and will be discussed June 26.

For more information, call DSN 354-1740 or CIV 09721-96-1740.

“Our Mission”...
....to raise enough funds to make sure all our single soldiers come home to their bed made ...room cleaned and food in their refrigerator ...just like our married soldiers. It is the least we can do for the soldiers that help make sure our husbands and wives come home too.

Bring a standard bed pillow and receive “10 FREE” raffle tickets

OPERATION HOME-SWEET-BARRACKS “BINGO”

When: 30th of May (Friday)
Where: Longbow Lounge (Illesheim)
Time: Doors Open at 1715
***First session starts at 1800**
***Second session starts at 1930**
(\$10.00 a session)

Over 25 Raffle prizes!!!

\$\$\$ iPod Sport Basket “Black-out Bingo” \$\$\$

POC: Yvonne Schlangen 0170-239-3102



Photo courtesy of the Berchtesgaden National Park

The Berchtesgaden National Park, almost completely surrounded by the Austrian border, offers free, no-reservations guided hiking tours.

Looking for adventure? Look no further. Bavarian parks offer ample opportunities

by KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

After months of a dreary Bavarian winter that was curiously both sunless and nearly snowless, it is finally time to get out and enjoy the most beautiful time of year in Germany's most beautiful area.

There are two national parks and five nature parks in Bavaria with miles of hiking trails and other outdoor attractions to get you off the couch and exploring the European countryside.

Whether you are looking to spend half a day or an entire week, whether you want a leisurely stroll or a strenuous outdoor adventure, the parks in Bavaria offer what you are looking for.

Bavarian Forest Nature Park and National Park

Where: The Bavarian Forest Nature Park is located in the southeast of Germany, surrounding the Bavarian Forest National Park along the Czech border.

More info: www.nationalpark-bayerischer-wald.de and www.naturpark-bayer-wald.de

At first, the designation between a nature park and a national park seems a bit confusing. The gist seems to be that national parks are more strictly protected, economic use is prohibited and natural habitats are allowed to flourish without interference. Nature parks on the other hand strive for environmentally friendly land use for conservation along with recreation and educational purposes.

In addition to the well marked and extensive network of hiking trails the National Park offers extensive educational activities for the entire family. The visitor center at Hans-Eisenmann-Haus hosts a geological-botanical garden with more than 700

species of plants found in the Bavarian Forest, clearly ordered by habitat. Families can also take daily guided tours through wildlife enclosures to try and catch a glimpse of the area's natural wildlife including lynx, grey wolf, brown bear, and wild horses.

Berchtesgaden National Park

Where: The Berchtesgaden National Park is in the extreme south-east corner of Bavaria, almost completely surrounded by the Austrian border.

More info: www.nationalpark-berchtesgaden.bayern.de

The National Park offers free, no reservations needed guided hiking tours throughout the park. The tours vary in length and difficulty, and are described in an extensive and well organized table on the park Web site. From the homepage click on "News", then "Hiking Program."

The National Park House in Berchtesgaden offers a three dimensional virtual flight through the mountains, allowing visitors to view reaches of the park usually inaccessible. A children's corner and a temporary exhibit on protecting the earth and our climate are a few highlights of the parks main visitor's center.

Altmühltal Nature Park

Where: The Altmühltal Nature Park is directly west of Regensburg, south of the A6 autobahn.

More info: www.naturpark-althuehlal.de

The Altmuehl River runs through most of the park, a small stream that eventually turns into the giant Rhine-Main-Danube-Canal. The park boasts well marked hiking and cycling trails, from short half day walks to multi-day long strenuous hikes. One of the more popular routes, the Altmühltal

Radweg, which, like all the trails in the park is marked by yellow signs, follows the river for almost 100 miles.

Visitors can also explore the area by water just as easily as by land. Canoes are available to rent for anywhere from one hour to multiple days. Like most of the parks in Bavaria, camping facilities are available and, depending on the time of year, it is usually possible to find a spot.

Frankische Schweiz Nature Park

Where: The Frankische Schweiz Nature Park is located between Bamberg, Bayreuth, and Nuremberg.

More info: www.fraenkische-schweiz.com

Within the Frankische Schweiz Nature Park are many different themed nature trails. The Bulkhead Mountain nature trail in Ebermannstadt is a little more than four miles long and has panels along the way featuring the botany, cultural history, and geology of the area. Other nature trails abound throughout the area, almost one near every town.

The park Web site has an excellent listing of the walks, including their lengths and interesting features along the way. Most are short, leisurely strolls suitable for children and families.

For those looking for activities more extreme than hiking, horseback riding stables cover the area, as well as opportunities to take a hot air balloon ride or go hang gliding.

Frankenwald Nature Park

Where: The Frankenwald Nature Park is located in northern Bavaria, about 30 miles northwest of Bayreuth.

More info: www.frankenwald-tourismus.de and www.top-trails-of-germany.de

The entire Frankenwald Nature Park itself has more than 2,000 miles of marked hiking trails, but trumping all those is probably the Frankenweg, a long-distance hiking trail marked in 2004 that covers a total of 323 miles.

Considered one of Germany's top trails, it winds its way through six different landscape types, one of them though the Frankenwald Nature Park.

If you are planning your weekends in advance, you may want to reserve a spot on one of the rafts that travel down the Rodach River. Most Saturdays between May and September, 20 rafts with coxswain take a crew down this wild river, but plan ahead because spots sell out quickly.

Steigerwald Nature Park

Where: The Steigerwald Nature Park occupies the area between the four cities of Wurzburg, Bamberg, Nuremberg, and Rothenburg.

More info: www.steigerwald-info.de

All nature parks are peppered with small villages, so, like many of the hikes in nature Parks, the routes in Steigerwald will take you through the fields, towns, and villages of the area.

Their Web site has downloadable brochures with excellent, detailed, color maps outlining different walking routes. Take two hours or the entire day, stopping for a beer or piece of cake at any of the guest houses you will pass along the way.

If you are looking to spend multiple days on the trail, but don't want to carry your luggage along the way and don't want to rough it in a tent, park staff can help you pick a packaged trip which allows you to spend the day moving along your route, with your luggage automatically deposited at your next hotel when you arrive for the night.

Volunteers help improve quality of life

Story and photo by
RONALD H. TOLAND JR.
Bavarian News

The U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach recognized its volunteers during the 35th Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony May 7 at the Storck Barracks theater.

Despite deployments, the community boasts 490 registered volunteers and 170 participating organizations.

Donna Bond, the Army Community Service director, said these numbers show that volunteering is still strong within the community. "Volunteerism has not stopped, since the majority of the community is going through a deployment, one way or the other," she said.

"Our community volunteers have served over 30,381 hours from April 2007 to March 2008," said Temeka Cochran, the USAG Ansbach Army Volunteer Corps coordinator. "These hours symbolize the total dollar value of \$617,690 saved by the community through the support and services of volunteers."

"Some organizations would not survive without them," said Bond during a reception honoring the volunteers.

USAG Ansbach Commander Lt. Col. Tammy S. McKenna said volunteers fill a community void with the work they provide.

"There are so many things that need to be done, and there is always so much more that is needed to help Soldiers and families, that unpaid positions help accomplish," she said. "Its the



Lt. Col. Tammy S. McKenna, USAG Ansbach commander, cuts the cake at the garrison's volunteer recognition reception May 7 in Illesheim while Temeka Cochran, USAG Ansbach volunteer coordinator, looks on.

little things that need to be done that add something extra to improve the quality of life of the community.

And they do it because they want to, and out of the goodness and kindness of their heart,

which is the best part," said McKenna after the reception. "And it gives me a sense of pride as the garrison commander."

But it's a win-win for everyone. In addition to the services they provide, volunteers obtain

valuable work experience. "It provides opportunities for training, to learn new skills, opportunities to increase marketable job skills, to assume responsibility in leadership roles, the excitement of meeting and working with an array of people, satisfaction of contributing to their military community, and recognition for their daily contributions—a sense of achievement," listed Cochran.

Elsie Figueroa, a volunteer at the Ansbach Elementary School, and her family received the distinguished family volunteer award.

For Figueroa, volunteering is about supporting the community and family time.

"One saves the organization money that would otherwise be spent on labor costs, and volunteering as a family is the perfect opportunity to spend quality time together while making a difference in our community," she said.

However, for husband Luis Figueroa, it's not just about family, but also about leadership.

"For our family, it is very important for a simple reason—we set the example to our children and to our community," said Luis.

Top volunteers received a \$50 savings bond from Andrews Federal Credit Union and a volunteer parking lot permit valid for one year.

Volunteers can register on www.mymilitarylifetoo.com to log their hours and find volunteer opportunities in the community.

For more information on volunteering or classes on the process of registering and logging volunteer hours into myarmylife, call Cochran at DSN 467-3272 or CIV 09802-83-3272.

USAG Ansbach celebrates Month of the Military Child

Story and photo by
RONALD H. TOLAND JR.
Bavarian News

In honor of the Month of the Military Child, more than 1,500 children and parents from the Katterbach and Illesheim communities celebrated during the April festivities.

Activities included bike rodeos, a free amusement park trip, robotic weeks, and much more.

To celebrate the communities' children, the garrison's Morale, Welfare and Recreation and its Child and Youth Services sponsored a community Kinderfest in Hangar 2 on Katterbach April 26.

CYS representatives from the Child Development Center, School Age Services, Youth Services, sports, Central Enrollment, and SKIESUnlimited were on the scene as well as Voting Assistance, the Service Credit Union, Army Community Service, the military police, and private organizations to support the

day's events.

Children enjoyed food, games, and fun-activities to include a bouncy castle, bouncy slides, bull riding, face painting, and a petting zoo. A live band, tumbling, and a karate demonstration was part of the entertainment provided by SKIESUnlimited.

One of the day's highlights was a children fashion show sponsored by AAFES.

"We are putting on a fashion show with AAFES, sporting the latest styles that they have to offer, and youth ages 3-15, volunteered to strut their stuff," said Cristina Salvador, YS administrative assistant.

The month's festivities were topped off with a parade of the communities' children, sponsored by Katterbach's child development services April 30.

"It is our last big day of celebration and a really neat way to give our last final 'hurrah'," said Shannon Kinkle, assistant director of the Katterbach

Child Development Center. "The kids will march through the housing area with signs and shirts they decorated; each class having a different theme.

"They are really a huge part in what we do in the community and the kids really enjoy it. It makes them feel really important and really special," she said.

For John Britton, a parent with two children in the parade, participating in the month's celebration means support.

"As a parent, it is good that I come out and support my children, plus it helps with stability since we have one deployed parent."

It's all about giving back to children, for Heather Lammers, director at the Katterbach child development center.

"They give a lot of support to their parents, need a lot of support, and it is good to give some of that support back to them," she said. "They are the light of the community and we need to be celebrating that."



Children from the School Age Services in Katterbach parade through the installation housing area April 30. The parade marked the end of the month-long festivities observing the Month of the Military Child. Activities included bike rodeos, a free trip to an amusement park, robotic weeks, and Kinderfest.



RECORD-SETTING SUPPORT

On the evening of May 14, 1,385 Soldiers, family members, civilians, and local nationals of the Ansbach military community set the unofficial Armed Forces record for the largest yellow ribbon formation at the Storck Barracks Airfield.

The previous record was set by the Marines at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., in October 2005. Neither record is registered with Guinness World Records.

Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation staff handed out free yellow T-shirts to event participants.

Photo by Ronald H. Toland Jr.



Rancel Arrocha



Karina Barbosa



Laura Bartlett



Julia Buchler



Jacob Burnside



Lykamille
Cabigon



Micaela
Cardozo



Rolando Correa



Kimberly
Edwards



Storm Freeman



Erik Gilgenast



Thomas
Graham



Taylor Gunn



Justin Harris



Jade Harvey



Trista Irvin



Tyler Kempton



Jiamine Kimbell



Jessica Koski



Ron Marak



Michael
Martinez



John Mesley



Brian Moderie



Julien
Pomerantz



Jayleen
Ramirez



Daniel
Robinson



Melissa
Rodriguez



Courtney Saltz



Kadi Sesay



Robert
Shelvock



Xavier Sheppard



Ryan Snow



Robert Taylor



Judith Vazquez



Dazzanae
Walker



John Willis-
Morris

NOT
PICTURED
(above):
Elizabeth
Prestwood

Stephanie
Oliver

Ansbach
High
School
seniors
hang out in
Ms. Tibbs'
room
during
seminar.

*Courtesy
photo*



Congratulations Ansbach High
School graduates!

Children’s troupe takes area by storm

Story and photos by **TRECIA A. WILSON**
Bavarian News

The theater was a buzz of young voices excited to take part in the new play. Just 24 hours into the five days of rehearsal, there are already adjustments being made to accommodate the group of young actors.

Missoula Children’s Theatre isn’t your ordinary everyday drama program. Based in Missoula, Mont., this company is much like the traveling troubadours of yore.

It comes rolling into town with its planned performance, all the costumes and props and two, sometimes three, actors and directors.

These directors work with local youth groups to round up about 45 interested kids and then with just five days of rehearsal, they bust out an entertaining production of an offbeat version of many age-old plays.

Rather than turn anyone away, Missoula Children’s Theatre’s directors put interested youth, who have not been chosen to act, into technical positions.

These positions include assistant directors,

stage managers, lighting assistants, and costume assistants. These youth begin to learn the basics of theater from the ground up.

They learn the importance of being on time and of memorizing their lines. They learn how to organize groups of actors and light the stage.

Approximately 45 youth auditioned April 28 to fill acting and technical spots for the production.

Dory Lerew and Chelle Robinson began their rehearsal week by asking the youth to make a solemn pledge:

“I will not ask my directors or technical crew about my costume or my make-up until Saturday.”

Marsha Bentley is the mother of one young actor.

“I’m thrilled that so many kids can participate in theater. This is Rachel’s first year and she’s very excited,” Bentley said.

The Missoula Children’s Theatre’s Robin Hood opened to audiences May 3 at the Stable Theater.

For more information about Stable Theater events, contact Jack Austin at CIV 0951-300-8647.



Anna Hodges (left) and Hannah Williamson “attack” actor and director Dory Lerew during their first day rehearsing Robin Hood. The girls are just two of many local youth who performed with the traveling crew of Lerew and Chelle Robinson at the Stable Theater May 3.

Bonkers for Bunco



Courtesy photo

The winning was easy for several ladies Saturday as the Moonlight Cabin held its first Bunco night. Prizes were awarded for most wins, most Buncos, and most losses. Winners included Krystal Sims (Most wins - \$100 Spa Finder Gift Card), Renee Cuevas (Most Buncos - \$50 Bath and Body Gift Card), and Teri Samarin (Most Losses - \$25 Portsmouth Tea Gift Card).

If you wish you’d been there, don’t worry. You still have a chance at winning Saturday and June 21. Prizes for May include a \$75 gift certificate to Williams-Sonoma, a \$50 iGourmet gift certificate, and a \$25 Saveur magazine subscription/cookbook gift certificate. June prizes include a \$75 Coldwater Creek gift certificate, \$50 DSW Shoe Warehouse gift certificate, and \$50 Victoria Secret gift certificate. All players are eligible to enter the grand prize drawing for a \$4000 Spafinder gift card plus \$250 travel or incidental expenses or the second place prize of a \$500 Spafinder gift card which will be held at the end of July.

Redesigned gates aid traffic flow, keep pedestrians safe

Bamberg PAO news release

Residents and visitors entering Warner Barracks at Zollnerstrasse will see tremendous improvements when Gate 3 traffic and pedestrian flow patterns are redesigned as of May 5. Both pedestrians and drivers will find the new design safer and more convenient.

The first step is modifying the traffic flow for cars entering Warner Barracks. The left incoming lane will remain the drive through lane and the right incoming lane will remain the inspection lane.

However, the left lane will merge right, continuing straight past the new parking locations on the left and then around the curve and back into the main road. The new parking area will be for people who need to manually sign themselves or visitors in.

This new parking area will be accompanied by new sidewalks to keep you out of the street while moving to the sign-in window. The new parking area will also eliminate the need to back up into traffic, as you will be able to pull straight through onto the main road.

Additionally, during late night or early morning hours, the sign-in window will be moved from the north side where it is now, to the south side of the building.

The intent is to move the sign-in area further away from the housing area, hopefully reducing the noise affecting the residents of Pines Housing.

The second modification will involve the pedestrian flow pattern into the Gate 3 area.

Currently, pedestrians must sign in at the

small guard house on the south side of the Gate 3 entrance. If you are coming from the north side of Zollnerstrasse, you are forced to cross the street to reach the sign-in booth.

After signing in, you must cross the street to walk through the gate area, then you must cross the street, at least once more, in order to gain access to the main barracks area.

To change this pattern, a new turnstile door will be installed in the fence which will lead directly to the footpath by the 54th Engineer headquarters and barracks.

This will allow traffic to be re-routed away from the main gate area and all of the vehicle traffic. The new pedestrian route will be safer as no roads have to be crossed and it is more convenient because the route is shorter for some of the Soldiers.

Additionally, this re-routing of the foot traffic should also serve to reduce the noise that is often generated by Soldiers as they return from a night downtown, which should improve the quality of life for the Soldiers and family members in Pines housing.

“The idea for traffic flow change came from a Soldier. The recommendation for the pedestrian flow change came from DPW. We closely examined these recommendations and I believe the new design is a win-win for everyone,” said Lt. Col. Gary Rosenberg, U.S. Army Garrison Bamberg commander.

The installation of the new turnstile should begin June 1 with completion by mid-June.

This is the first of three projects that will improve safety on Warner Barracks. The second initiative will involve the traffic pattern around Bldg. 7000 and Memorial Park.

Clinic encourages regular breast cancer screenings

Bamberg Health Clinic press release

Breast cancer is one of the most common types of cancer found in women and is the second leading cause of death in women. In order to ensure proper identification, assessment, and treatment, the Bamberg Health Clinic is providing clinical breast exams at well woman appointments.

According to the American Cancer Society, one in eight women will be affected by breast cancer sometime in their life, and an estimated 40,480 women will die from the disease this year.

Early detection is a crucial step in finding and treating cancer.

“The most effective way to detect breast cancer is having routine clinical breast exams by your health care provider and getting age appropriate routine mammograms,” said Maj. Tina Streker, the Community Health Nurse at the Bamberg Health Clinic.

The health clinic proposes that women between the ages of 20-39 should have a clinical breast exam by their health care provider at least every three years, and an optional Breast Self-Exam every month with the goal of reporting any

breast changes to their doctor right away. Women over the age of 40 should have a mammogram every year, a clinical breast exam by their health care provider at least every year, and an optional BSE every month.

Referrals can also be made for women over the age of 40 to get a mammogram on the German economy.

Maj. Bob Gahol, the Bamberg Health Clinic Commander, encourages everyone to get screened on a regular basis. He stressed that, according to the data provided by the Military Health System Population Health Portal, only 57 percent of eligible women between the ages of 42-69 have had a mammogram within the past 24 months.

“Part of the health clinic’s mission statement is to manage the medical needs and promote the health of Soldiers, family members, and civilians throughout the Bamberg community. Evidence of screening is strongest among women within this age group, so it is vital that they are getting mammograms from a health care provider,” Gahol said.

To schedule an appointment for a well woman screening, contact the Bamberg Health Clinic at CIV 0951-300-1750.



CYS classes open

Gymnastics instructor Denise Leddy works with Mariah Harris, 4, during a tumbling class held at Freedom Fitness Facility. Courses are available for students up to age 16, including a special class of sport acrobatics. For more information on these classes and more, contact CYS at CIV 0951-300-8660.

Photo by Trecia Wilson

ACS honors community volunteers

Story and photo by
SANDRA WILSON
Bavarian News

Serving more than 92,000 hours, Schweinfurt community volunteers have contributed more than 11,000 full days of work this past year toward making the community a better place to live, work, and play.

Army Community Service honored the volunteers April 25 with a luncheon of appreciation at Conn Community Club.

The “groovy” 1970s theme shone through with decorations, music, and outfits of the attendees.

Master of ceremony Wendy Sledd rolled in on a pair of old-fashioned skates to give a welcome to all of the community’s volunteers before introducing U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt Commander Lt. Col. Anthony “funkadelic” Haager.

Haager expressed gratitude to these key members who freely volunteered during a season of “enormous change.”

With the departure of the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry (Airborne), the return of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team last fall, changes in commands and unit designations, and moves to Grafenwoehr, these volunteers

nevertheless gave of their time in various ways.

“These changes affect us all, every day, and instead of spending time focused on the difficulties those changes cause you personally, each and every one of you volunteers has instead worked to make those difficulties less for others,” said Haager. “Your dedication serves as a model for us all.”

Recognition went to volunteers selected throughout the year for “Volunteer of the Month” and “Volunteer of the Quarter” for their excellent service. “Volunteer of the Year” was awarded to only six volunteers, according to their category of service.

“I like giving back,” said Sara Dick, who was awarded the title of Agency Volunteer of the Year. “I originally started because my husband was deployed, I didn’t have a job, and I was all alone. I don’t know what else I would have done.”

Dick gave her time to the American Red Cross, Schweinfurt Community Spouses Club, her family readiness group, girl scouts, and the Parent Teacher Association at the elementary school.

“I enjoy being able to be around the Soldiers. It’s more rewarding than

having a job, because I like what I’m doing,” said Drexel Warner, named the Civilian Volunteer of the Year.

Warner spent most of his volunteer time as a program assistant for the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program in Schweinfurt.

Youth Volunteer of the Year, 8-year-old Taelor Duncan, expressed her own reasons for volunteering.

“This is a small community and the more volunteering you do for the community, the more things get done,” she said.

Haager couldn’t agree more.

“We could not accomplish half of what we do without the volunteers,” said Haager. “It goes to show that our community has a bunch of big hearts in it.”

Wendy Sledd (left) served as master of ceremony for the Army Community Service Volunteer Recognition Ceremony April 25 as she announced Sara Dick as Agency Volunteer of the Year. USAG Schweinfurt Commander Lt. Col. Anthony Haager presented Dick with her award.



AFTB issues unit challenge to Soldiers, families

by **SANDRA WILSON**
Bavarian News

Army Community Service is hosting the Army Family Team Building Unit Challenge through July 4. The challenge began in April, but it’s not too late to begin participating and gaining points for your battalion.

By attending specified classes offered by ACS, Soldiers can earn promotion points as well as bring their battalion one step closer to victory.

But it’s not just a Soldier thing. The classes are available for families as well, and points for the battalion can also be accrued by family members.

“It’s a challenge to each battalion to get ... the highest percentage of people through AFTB classes,” said Jennifer Litchfield, ACS program manager.

The winning battalion will be announced at the Fourth of July celebration, she said.

In addition to advancement in the competition, these classes provide immeasurable benefits to participants, whether new or

seasoned to the Army way of life.

“AFTB strives to make families ready and prepared for any situation that could develop. When a spouse or Soldier has no direction, the world is lonely and confusing, but AFTB is here to see that the Army Family is equipped to endure and withstand whatever is thrown our way,” said Sarah Small, AFTB instructor and master trainer.

AFTB has three levels of classes to address various areas of Army life.

Level I and II are focused on personal growth and explore community resources, acronyms, the Army mission, expectations, time management, and more.

Level III is designed for professional growth with an emphasis on leadership and conflict resolution.

Classes can be taken in any order and don’t have pre-requisites.

“There’s something in it for everybody. It’s all interactive. It’s very empowering,” Litchfield said.

“As a spouse and a Soldier, you need to know these things. As a community we should

take advantage of (the classes) because you learn something new from each class,” said Tyran Baker, ACS program support assistant as well as an AFTB instructor.

For those who can’t spare several days for the AFTB classes, specific two-hour modules have been extracted to form shorter one-subject classes offered both during the day and in the evening.

“I’ve got 23 instructors who are just really excited about teaching them,” Litchfield said.

These classes are aimed at those who may have a tighter schedule or for those who are only interested in certain subjects.

Regardless of the subject or length of the class, all are designed to prepare Soldiers, family members, and the community for everyday living and deployments as well as define realistic expectations between the Army and its members.

“The Army didn’t say life would be easy but did make resources available to us to assist us in times of need,” Small said.

Call ACS at DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6933 for a description of each class or to register.

Classes

AFTB Instructor training

Today-Friday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Taking the Lead

Tomorrow, 5-7 p.m.

No Problem

Tuesday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

May 28, 5-7 p.m.

Successful Relationships

June 9, 9-10:30 a.m.

June 16, 5-6:30 p.m.

For the Last Time

June 11, 9-11 a.m.

June 27, 4-6 p.m.

Dealing with the Media

June 12, 11:30 a.m.-1p.m.

June 19, 5-6:30 p.m.

Perfect Timing (for kids)

June 13, 10-11 a.m.

Important Decisions (teens)

June 17, 1-2 p.m.

June 19, 2-3 p.m.

Alphabet Soup for Kids

June 23, 2-3 p.m.

AFTB Level III

June 23-25, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Ain’t No Thang (for kids)

June 24, 11 a.m.-noon

Whad’ya Say? (for kids)

June 25, 2-3 p.m.

Month of the Military Child



Photo by Kimberly Gearhart

Tiny Miss Kinderfest Ashley Faehr, 3, took a ride on Shannon the horse, with the aid of Anja Beckmann of Seufert Ranch at the April 26 Family Palooza.

A tricycle race, inflatable slide, military police working dog, and D.A.R.E. displays, games, prizes, and a parade filled the 5-hour long event on Askren Manor, wrapping up the Month of the Military Child with free fun in the sun for all ages.

WAHS students take part in mock NATO simulation

German, American students learn fine art of country negotiation, roles of ambassadors

by **SANDRA WILSON**
Bavarian News

Thirty-five high school students traveled to Sambachshof near Bad Koenigshofen in April for a seminar sponsored by the Bavarian State Center for Political Education.

“Originally, back at the beginning, the seminars were meant as a way of expressing gratitude for the Americans who served in Bavaria. Bavarian state government is the only state government that did and does this,” said Andreas Kolitsch, an organizer of the event from the Bavarian Ministry of Education in Munich.

This year marked the 24th annual seminar and included participation from Wuerzburg American High School, Ansbach American High School, Gymnasium Miesbach, and Otto-Schott-Gymnasium Jena. Of the 35 students who participated, eight were from WAHS.

The highlights of the seminar included a field trip out to Point Alpha in Rasdorf— what used to be a Cold War border observation area and is now a museum and memorial place— as well as an all-day simulation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Council.

“The students take on the roles of ambassadors to NATO. They are faced with a crisis and need to deliberate and come to a consensus of how NATO as a whole should react to the crisis,” said Tamir Sinai, developer and trainer for security simulations, as he

described the students’ task for the day.

“During the simulation, they learn how to work out a problem, make up their mind, and defend their opinions ... and they gain a lot of knowledge, (and) details about history and politics,” said Kolitsch.

The 35 students, each representing a country, were presented with a simulated crisis and given approximately seven hours to come to a resolution.

“I really never knew what (NATO) stood for, who was involved, and what they did,” said Courtney Edwards, WAHS sophomore, explaining how participation in the simulation answered many of her questions.

“It’s really hard to get a compromise and respect each country’s opinion,” said senior Benedik Kirzeder, a German participant.

One aim of the entire seminar was to teach the students about history and politics, but the second aim was to promote interaction between German and American students.

“The main point of the seminar is to promote friendships among the kids and get to know kids their own age,” said Nina Fortson-Leno, world history and German language teacher at WAHS.

“A week like this costs roughly between 6 and 7,000 euros. This is (German) taxpayers money, but it is well-spent,” said Kolitsch, explaining how the American students attend at no personal cost.

Senior Blackhawk leaders return to basic Soldiering

by **KIMBERLY GEARHART**
Bavarian News

A 10-mile road march carrying 25-30 pound packs in the small hours of the morning. A 24-hour day filled with rope bridges, assault weapons, obstacle courses, and blistered feet. Described this way, the Blackhawk Magic event starts to sound a bit like the Expert Infantry Badge course or a bad day of basic training.

That is, until you see the rank of that Soldier slogging through the water obstacle.

“Company commanders and the 1st Sergeants, battalion senior staff members, command sergeants major, and senior brigade staff took part,” explained Lt. Col. Eric Timmerman, deputy commander of the Blackhawk

Brigade.

Senior staff got back to basic Soldiering in an event designed “to build esprit de corps” among the leadership of the battalions within the brigade, according to Maj. Eric Stetson who handles brigade public affairs.

“We got to see ourselves all together sharing a physically and sometimes mentally challenging unit event. You can’t recreate that by sitting around and talking about it; using your craft, and seeing how the Soldiers to your left and right lend their experiences. We blended together to be greater than the sum of our parts,” said Timmerman.

Blackhawk Magic wasn’t only about the “shared hardship” Timmerman described, however.

In addition to some serious

Soldiering tasks, participants took time to recall and honor the history of the Blackhawk Brigade itself.

“Our legacy unit, the 86th Infantry Division, fought their way to Salzburg (Germany) during World War II,” Timmerman said.

So, April 24, the Blackhawks marched back into Salzburg, a tiny village northwest of Geissen, and presented the mayor of the town with a plaque set in stone commemorating the town’s shared history with the brigade.

“The people from the town came out to see us. There were people there that were of an age that meant they were at least kids during World War II, when we were there before. It was kind of emotional,” Timmerman said.

“We let them know that this lineage has returned to Europe.”



Col. Jeffrey Sinclair, right, leads his brigade and battalion leaders into Salzburg, Germany to seal a bond of shared history and friendship.

Courtesy photo

Airborne Soldier awarded Bronze Star with Valor

Story and photo by
Army Pfc. CHRISTINA SINDERS
Regional Command-East PAO

A Bronze Star with “V” device for valor, the fourth-highest medal awarded by the United States military, was awarded to Sgt. Ryan P. Inabnet of the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry (Airborne) on Fire Base Naray, Kunar province in Afghanistan April 24.

Brig. Gen. Mark Milley, Combined Joint Task Force-101 deputy commanding general of operations, awarded the medal to Inabnet and presented him with a coin for excellence.

Inabnet was recognized for his actions in combat July 27, 2007, when he saved more than a dozen Soldiers’ lives during a combat operation in Kunar province. His Quick Reaction Team was called to support International Security Assistance Forces engaged in combat with insurgents.

“We first set out after receiving word that four casualties on the ground were injured and two of them were serious,” said Inabnet, a wheeled vehicle mechanic. “Once we arrived we got the four injured in the vehicles and dropped them off at the (medical evacuation) site.”

Shortly afterward, Inabnet provided first aid to a wounded Soldier from his QRT.

“Once we had all the equipment and personnel, we started to head back,” said Inabnet. “That’s when we started taking (rocket propelled grenades) and small-arms fire.”

As the group tried to break contact, several Soldiers were wounded and



Brig. Gen. Mark Milley, Combined Joint Task Force-101 deputy commanding general of operations, pins a Bronze Star for Valor on Sgt. Ryan P. Inabnet of the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry (Airborne) April 24 at Fire Base Naray, Kunar province, Afghanistan.

moved to Inabnet’s vehicle.

“My main goal was to get these guys back to the helicopter landing zone so they could survive,” said Inabnet. “I ended up staying up for hours until we got all our guys back inside the (forward operating base).”

“That day will be with me for a long time,” he said. “I would like to thank the Lord above and all my brothers who were in that fight with me.”

Local BOSS named best in Europe for programming

by **KIMBERLY GEARHART**
Bavarian News

At this year’s European conference, the U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt’s Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers program was named the best in Europe for its innovative programming, drive for community involvement, and focus on Soldier wellness and recreation.

The Schweinfurt program also took second place in the event



Holt

category for the “This One’s For You” series which ran monthly from September 2007 through March 2008.

“TOFU was just one project in our larger reintegration program,” explained BOSS president Pvt. Justin Holt.

The events combined training programs aimed at helping Soldiers cope with reintegration and recreational activities, games, and concerts.

“Several agencies like Army Community Service and Army Substance Abuse Program came by and gave classes on budgeting, alcohol awareness, and reconnecting with your friends and families,” Holt explained.

The TOFU program, though presented by BOSS, was open to any Soldier that felt he

needed help in adjusting to life after war.

“This program was designed to help Soldiers deal with reintegration and combat stress in a healthy, fun-filled way,” said Silvia Joiner, who acts as an advisor to BOSS from the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation program.

“The environment was nice, more relaxed than the type of post-deployment briefings Soldiers get with their units. A lot of times they are more comfortable speaking up and asking questions than they would be with their command there,” Holt said.

Although the TOFU series is complete, the BOSS program in Schweinfurt is still in full swing. Each battalion has a representative and most have a centralized information board to post events, advertise contact information, and

accept suggestions.

“We have bimonthly meetings, on the first Tuesday and the last Thursday of the month, usually. Representatives come, and I encourage them to bring Soldiers as well,” Holt said.

“This organization is about Soldiers, and Soldiers need to help us make it happen,” he said.

Holt went on to note that the program is a volunteer, not a “voluntold,” organization, and he wants those Soldiers who are interested in and excited about the changing face of BOSS to come out and help make it happen.

For more information about the program, to make suggestions, or to inquire about becoming a BOSS representative, contact Holt at DSN 353-8021 or e-mail justin.d.holt@us.army.mil.

Military ties inspire project to bring ‘creature comforts’ to single Soldiers

by **KIMBERLY GEARHART**
Bavarian News

In pledging to better support its families, the Army has acknowledged that it is the strength of military families that make the “Army Strong” motto more than just a catchy slogan. Military moms, in particular, demonstrate that strength while also stretching the conventional definition of family.

Solveig Stetson’s husband is retired U.S. Navy Reserve Commander John. B. Stetson IV. Her sons John B. Stetson V, Eric, and Scott serve as officers in the Air Force, Army, and Navy, respectively. Solveig herself has served as a military spouse and mother, but her dedication to the Soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines of the U.S. Armed Forces does not stop at those of blood relation.

“Wherever our sons are deployed, I always

send care packages that they can share with others,” Solveig said.

Maj. Eric Stetson, Solveig’s middle son, serves with the Blackhawk Brigade in Schweinfurt. When the brigade recently returned from Iraq, Solveig asked Eric to get names of Soldiers still in theater to whom she could continue to send support. When those Soldiers also returned, Solveig again turned to Eric for names.

Eric put Solveig in touch with Grete Timmons, a Family Readiness Group co-leader with the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment.

“I had mentioned that the CAV was looking, specifically, to raise money in order to prepare single Soldiers’ rooms with sheets and toiletries,” Eric said.

“My husband John and I felt very strongly

that there should be a better welcome home and some creature comforts” for the returning CAV Soldiers, Solveig said.

What started as a letter to a few friends asking for donations became something of a “chain e-mail,” and Solveig began to receive input from people she’d never met.

“(Many) expressed their gratitude for knowing how to help. I think more people would help if they knew the way,” Solveig said, noting that increased security measures can be daunting to those that wish to send assistance.

During a visit to Schweinfurt last month, Solveig presented the CAV rear-detachment with the funds she’d collected, as well as a special gift from the Stetson family—a miniature Stetson hat and a letter from Solveig’s husband John, the great-grandson of the creator of the iconic Cavalry Stetson.

“I do not think that we have done anything extraordinary, but do encourage others to help in any way they can ... Our military is guarding the freedom of our country, and helping and giving hope to many people around the world,” Solveig said.

“Anything we can do to support their efforts and thank our military for their service is not too much.”



Courtesy photo

Solveig Stetson, military wife and mother, wants to bring simple comforts to returning single CAV Soldiers.

Join the fight against spread of MRSA

by Lt. Col. RICK MARTIN
RN, MSN, Chief Nurse Vilseck Clinic

Despite being in the heart of relaxing Bavaria, away from many of the world’s contagious illnesses, residents of the Vilseck community haven’t been completely immune to contracting community associated methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, otherwise known as CA-MRSA.

The Vilseck Health Clinic diagnoses approximately one to two cases of CA-MRSA each month. *Staphylococcus aureus*, commonly known as staph, is a bacterium found on the skin or in the noses of many healthy people which sometimes causes infections. Some staph infections cannot be cured with the usual antibiotics, and these infections are caused by a “super bug” called methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*.

Symptoms

CA-MRSA is often mistaken for a spider bite and can resemble a pimple or a boil. Symptoms may include redness, warmth, swelling, pus drainage, and skin tenderness. If left untreated, MRSA can infect blood and bones and develop into a very serious illness.

Treatment

The current treatment varies with the severity of the infection. The physician caring for a patient with CA-MRSA may drain the infection, place the patient on one of several stronger antibiotics, and possibly provide either a full body antibacterial wash or nasal ointment.

In cases where a patient is diagnosed with a CA-MRSA abscess, all family members are swabbed for the organism in order to determine

if they should also be treated.

Some infections are so severe that hospitalization at local hospitals in Amberg or Sulzbach-Rosenberg may be required in order to allow patients to receive strong intravenous antibiotics and undergo surgical excision of their abscess.

Patients and their family members need to be forewarned that strict isolation precautions are followed at the hospital in order to prevent the spread of this “super bug” to other susceptible patients in the hospital.

Stopping the Spread of CA-MRSA

Following good personal hygiene is the key component of stopping the transmission of CA-MRSA. This involves washing hands with soap and water at every opportunity or use of at least 60 percent alcohol-based hand gel when soap and water is not available. Other things to do:

- Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered with a bandage.
- Do not share personal items such as razors, towels, and sports uniforms.
- Avoid direct contact with other people’s skin infections.
- Launder soiled clothing, linens, and towels weekly in hot water and laundry detergent.
- Clean off recreational or gym equipment like a weight bench before and after use.
- Avoid letting your bare skin contact gym equipment. Place a towel over it.
- Shower after any activity that may expose bare skin to contaminated surfaces or wounds from another person.
- Educate yourself on CA-MRSA by visiting www.cdc.gov or visit the Vilseck Health Clinic nursing staff for more information.



Courtesy photo

According the the Center for Disease Control Web site, sharing personal items such as towels, razors, or tweezers can cause diseases like community-associated methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* spread among family members.

Lyme disease, tick-borne encephalitis two reasons to keep a watch for ticks

by Capt. MATTHEW PERRY
Chief, Environmental Health Sciences, BMEDDAC

It is that time of the year again here in Bavaria. Believe it or not, the season for outdoor activity really is upon us and for most of us, this will take us far into the beautiful landscape of Europe on bike trails, volksmarches, and weekend camping trips.

While these activities are a wonderful way to get attached to nature, we need to be sure we don’t get nature too attached to us.

In Europe, tick season is April through October. Ticks in Germany, as in the United States, can carry several potentially deadly diseases for us and our pets.

Two common diseases seen here are Lyme disease, caused by the bacteria group *Borrelia*, and tick-borne encephalitis, caused by the tick-borne encephalitis virus. Both are transmitted through the bite of an infected Ixodes tick.

Lyme disease is commonly seen in the U.S. as well as in Europe. A person with Lyme disease may develop fever, headache, fatigue, and a very characteristic skin rash called erythema migrans.

This rash, which develops in about 70 percent of infected patients, is sometimes referred to as a “bulls-eye” rash because it is red and circular in appearance and as it grows (which can be up to 12 inches) it will often lose the red appearance in the center of the rash.

If the disease is left untreated, it can worsen and cause swelling of the brain; facial paralysis; pain and numbness in the hands and feet; enlargement and inflammation of the heart; intermittent bouts of arthritis in large joints (commonly the knees); and problems with sleeping, concentration, and even short term memory.

In most cases Lyme disease can be treated



Courtesy photo

The “bulls-eye” rash is a common symptom of Lyme disease.

with antibiotics. In a small percentage of patients, problems with joint and muscle pain, fatigue, and memory defects can persist months or years after treatment.

Tick-borne encephalitis, also known as Frühsommermeningoencephalitis in Germany, is a disease that is not seen in the U.S., but is common to Europe and other parts of the world. This disease, like Lyme disease, is caused by being fed on by the Ixodes tick.

Unlike with Lyme disease, a person can also get this disease by drinking raw milk from sheep, goats, and cows infected with the virus. A person with TBE can go one-two weeks without any symptoms of the infection.

Following this, the disease will follow a characteristic two-phase period. The first phase lasts two-four days and can cause fever, headache, loss of appetite, muscle aches, nausea, or vomiting.

Then there will be a period of about eight days where the virus will go into remission. After this period, about 20-30 percent of infected people will enter the second phase of the disease.

This will involve the nervous system and cause inflammation of the lining of the brain (meningitis), inflammation of the brain itself (encephalitis), or a combination of the two (meningoencephalitis). Because this disease is caused by a virus and not a bacterium, antibiotics are not effective in treating it.

Hospitalization is essential and depending on the severity of the illness, may require anti-inflammatory drugs and assisted breathing procedures. In about one-two percent of the cases, death will ensue after about five to seven days.

There is a non-FDA approved vaccine available in Europe. People interested in this should contact their health care provider to get further information on this vaccine.

The prevention of both of these diseases is the same: avoid being bit by ticks. Ticks have a way of sensing heat and carbon dioxide from long distances and will climb to the tops of long stalks of grass or other vegetation and wait until an animal (or human) walks by and brushes up against them.

Ticks will then attach to their host and begin feeding. In order to reproduce, male and female

ticks require this blood meal. Female ticks can lay from several hundred to several thousand eggs, depending on the species.

To prevent being bitten, avoid areas of overgrown brush, un-mowed yards, and fields that back up into wooded areas where wild animals reside. These will be popular places for ticks. Before going out hiking, camping, or playing in high brush areas, be sure to use some simple precautions that can significantly reduce the chances of being fed on by ticks and other insects.

Soldiers already know this as the “DoD Arthropod Repellent System.” This system includes wearing permethrin treated uniforms, applying DEET to exposed areas of the skin, and properly wearing the uniform.

It should be noted that the new ACUs do not come pre-treated with permethrin. There are several methods available to treat military uniforms, but the recommended method is the Individual Dynamic Absorbent kit (NSN 6840-01-345-0237).

Additionally, wearing light colored clothing may make it easier to see ticks when they initially attach to the skin, making their removal easier.

Wearing long pants and tucking them into socks or hiking boots will make it harder for ticks to find exposed skin to feed on. Apply DEET to exposed areas of the skin as directed by the label, but do not apply to children under 2 months old. Also, avoid milk that has not been pasteurized.

If a tick is found, removal should be done carefully. Proper removal of a tick is done by using fine tip tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible and pulling up in a smooth, steady motion.

After removal, clean the area with soap and water and apply an antiseptic. Avoid jerking motions or pinching off the head, as this could cause secondary infections.

Do not use home remedies, such as hot matches, fire, fingernails, polish, or other extreme methods.

The practice of wearing flea collars on a person’s body, directly or over clothes, should be strongly discouraged. This is not only ineffective but can be dangerous to the health of the person wearing them as the pesticides in the flea collars will concentrate in the persons skin and can cause skin and internal organ damage.

Bamberg clinic preps to welcome home 173rd

by Maj. BOB GAHOL
Bamberg Health Clinic Commander

The U.S. Army Health Clinic Bamberg will fully support the medical readiness and reintegration of the 173rd ABCT. The clinic has already started holding planning meetings in order to provide the best medical care for the returning Soldiers.

During the reintegration period, which is expected to be sometime in August, several changes will be made to the daily operations of the health clinic. Several health clinic providers and personnel will be assigned to the reintegration site, limiting the number of appointments available at the health clinic.

Routine and well appointments will be delayed during this time. The health clinic will continue to provide sick-call coverage and will have limited same-day appointments.

Urgent and emergent care will be provided by the host nation medical facilities. Referrals are still needed to get care on the economy, unless it is an emergency.

The set priorities of care will be strictly enforced. TRICARE Prime enrollees will be top priority, and the non-TRICARE Prime enrollees will be seen on a space-available basis.

In order for the clinic to continue to meet the health care needs of the community, there is another school and sports physical day scheduled for June 7. All parents are encouraged to call the health clinic to schedule appointments. Make sure to keep these appointments and show up on time.

For patients that are on chronic medications, the clinic advises that you get your prescriptions refilled before August 2008. If you are due for a women wellness exam, call the health clinic for an appointment before August.

If you are PCS-ing this summer and are currently enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program, get your records screened as soon as possible. PCS orders will not be processed unless there is an updated EFMP screening.

The U.S. Army Bamberg Health Clinic’s goals are to return deployed Soldiers and their families to full mission readiness, and to continue to provide top quality health care for the community. The clinic asks for your cooperation in achieving these goals.



Ryan Barry



Thomas Kevin Comeford



Sarah Denman



Casandra Gonzales



Stephanie Huettner



Steven Kniffin



Melissa Kuik



Lisa Little



Amber Manchester



Miranda McConnell



Brandyn McHaney



Victoria McKernan



Anthony Miles



Ann Kelli Montano



Stefanie Montano



Daniel Osgood



Benjamin Shelton



Carly Sipes



Benjamin Snyder



Kristina Van Horn



Amanda Whitney



Ishawu Yahuza



Safiatou Yahuza



Melissa Zinger



Bamberg Class of 2008



Avian Bryant



Jessica Henderson



Melanie Witter



Caitlin Krauchi



Veronica Stocking



Gabrielle Westerman



Samantha Suarez



Ilene Sherman



Mary Perisee



Patience Bennett



Patricia Payton



Christopher Kirk



Ebony Ross



Andrew Spencer



Senior spirit ran high at Bamberg all year long from each of the 14 seniors.

Courtesy photo



Bamberg seniors Andrew Spencer and Veronica Stocking during Spirit Week.

Courtesy photo



Bamberg senior Avian Bryant (center) practices her beats for drum line.

Courtesy photo



Bamberg's Andrew Spencer and Gabby Westerman at the Winter Dance.

Courtesy photo

Cody: Army Family Covenant showing results

Continued from Page 1

Europe right north and south of the Alps, as well as Joint Task Force-East (in Romania and Bulgaria)," Cody said. "That footprint has been well thought out."

The merging of the U.S. Army Europe and V Corps headquarters into the 7th Army is part of the Army's overall transformation, Cody said, noting that the deployable portion of the new 7th Army construct was tested during AC08.

The exercise tested the 7th Army's command post concept and will provide Army leaders and doctrine developers a foundation for a deployable joint and combined headquarters and shows leaders what components are needed and how the command structure should be assembled, he said.

"We have a template, but we will learn from Austere Challenge," he said. "We have to glean the lessons learned and we will adjust our plans as we transform 7th Army."

Cody also spoke about how the entire Army is continuing to transform as it fights in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Part of that transformation includes about 50,000 Soldiers who are being restationed in the continental United States from South Korea and Germany, Cody added.

"We are transforming the Army doctrinally," Cody continued. "We have the new operations (field manual) that deals with the doctrinal underpinnings of the world we are going to be in for the next 20 years."

The general said the Army will also combine armor and infantry training at Fort Benning, Ga.; artillery and air defense artillery schools at Fort Sill, Okla.; and transportation and ordnance schools at Fort Lee, Va.

In addition to transforming the Army's structure, footprint and doctrine, the Army is continuing to maintain its inventory of equipment, he said, with Army depots around

the world refurbishing seven brigades' worth of equipment annually.

"It is a very synchronized plan that we have, and all the while we are fighting the Global War on Terrorism," Cody said. "We have to get this Army modernized not just for this fight, but for the next fight. We have to invest in our infrastructure so we can retain our high-quality, all-volunteer force."

"We continue to refresh our equipment at the same time we're resetting our Soldiers and families."

Junior leaders are spearheading the Army's success, but every Soldier, civilian employee, and family member has a part to play in the Global War on Terrorism, the general said.

"It could be a civilian worker in a depot, it could be a family readiness group advisor, it could be someone working in the Pentagon, it could be someone on the 7th Army staff," he said. "Everybody is in this fight and is contributing in some shape or fashion."

Speaking one day after Military Spouse Day, Cody took the time to salute Army spouses for their part in the Army's success.

"We could not be 'Army strong' if we did not have strong military spouses. They endure the hardships of 12- and now 15-month separations from their loved ones. They end up having to take care of the children, maintain the household, as well as being part of a great Army community."

The Army Family Covenant is starting to show results, Cody said, citing improvements to child care centers, chapels and other family support facilities as examples.

"We are going to put deeds as well as investment behind the words of the Army covenant," he said.

"At the end of the day, what we are moving to is an Army that is in balance in all of its mission areas — to include the Army Family Covenant, to include the infrastructure investments — the center of gravity is the all-volunteer force."

Mullen: Army must change to accomodate injured

Continued from Page 1

capability of USAG Grafenwoehr Soldiers.

He said Iraq has undergone a positive change in their security and leadership as a result.

"What you did, and you were in the middle, has provided the security that I think is going to give Iraq a chance," he said. "It is much better then it was... and yet there still is a lot of work to do."

The Army, he said, must make additional changes to accommodate those injured in the war.

"We as a nation need to make sure that we take care of those families, those individuals, and do so in a way

like we never have before, that ensures that those surviving families, as well

as those who are injured and their families, are taken care of for the rest of their lives," he said.

Another change must be made in the amount of dwell time Soldiers have between deployments.

Mullen clarified that a

drawdown in Iraq has not been decided, but that, "we've got to get to two to one, twice as long at home as when you're deployed, as fast as we can," he said.

Leadership marked the final aspect of Mullen's message to the troops.

While it was directed to senior noncommissioned officers, he said leadership should be strong at every

level of the military.

"Leading from the front, the middle, or the back... that is the heart and soul of who we are in the military, and that is the heart and soul of success," Mullen said. "Leadership, more than anything else is something I depend on from each and every one of you and that hits right at the heart of the people issue..."

"We can have the greatest equipment in the world, we can have the most challenging missions in the world, and none of that is going to work unless we take care of you, unless we lead well, every single one of us, and that we treat each other with dignity and respect, we work hard as a team," he said. "It is about the team, it's not about individuals at all, nobody knows that better than you."

Mullen said Soldiers and their families living in Europe have a unique leadership role as well.

"Every single individual is an ambassador," he said.

As a leader, Mullen said he will do everything he can to ensure the Soldiers and families in the garrison are capable of success.



Photo by Mary Markos

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Navy Staff Admiral Mike Mullen mingles with Soldiers after a town hall meeting at U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr May 16.

"You serve a noble cause in a noble calling, it's not just about yourselves and I recognize that," he said.

"Rest assured, from my position at the senior leadership level, there is not

a day that goes by that I don't think about what you're doing out here," said Mullen, "and we're working hard to try and give you the best opportunity to succeed."

Austere Challenge 08 exercise aids in 7th Army transformation

Continued from Page 1

and staff functions as well.

Prior to AC08, military staffing and function was done with a "G" staff system, where G-1 served as personnel, G-2 Intel, et cetera, with offices such as public affairs and protocol serving as "personal" or "special" staff.

As 7th Army transforms, a new operational staff design was implemented with Operational Maneuver, Operational Effects, Operational Sustainment, and Operational Protection components.

In this new staff design, related "G" staff offices will work together. One example of the new staff system is found in Operational Effects, which will be composed of the former G-3 and pieces of what was the special staff

and personal staff.

Serving as a deployable headquarters marked another challenge in the transformation.

"It is very important for us to not just talk about transformation when it comes to our ability to deploy a 7th Army command post," Wagenaar said.

"That is one of the big differences in the way we are structured right now. The United States Army Europe has a headquarters that doesn't deploy," he said. "We used to rely on the Corps and the divisions to deploy. When we transform into 7th Army, 7th Army Headquarters will actually have a mission to deploy to contingency operations."

"This is a first step in meeting that major transformation objective of

being a deployable headquarters of 7th Army," said Wagenaar.

Computer simulation made a deployable headquarters possible.

"From Charleston Air Force Base, we had flight crews get into flight simulators... as though they were flying to where they were going to deploy. The headquarters at Ramstein, aboard Mount Whitney, and here tracked them as though they were real," Cowart explained.

The flight and other simulations during AC08 made deployment possible without the expense normally associated with moving large amounts of people and equipment.

"You can't train at this level without some very mature and robust simulations capability," Wagenaar explained. "The simulation is most

important to stimulate the Army battle command systems. For the person that is in the command post, we're using the simulation to stimulate all the things they would use to fight in a real world situation to manage the battle command."

The real world simulations constitute only one aspect of this three-phase training.

Phase one began in January in Heidelberg and marked the first meeting of the 7th Army JFLCC staff. The staff received academic instruction and produced the operating procedure for the war fighting practice.

Phase two replicated the deployment phase and established an early entry command post in Grafenwoehr.

The third phase of the training was the execution or battle in which the EECP and OCP merged to conduct drills. This phase concluded last week.

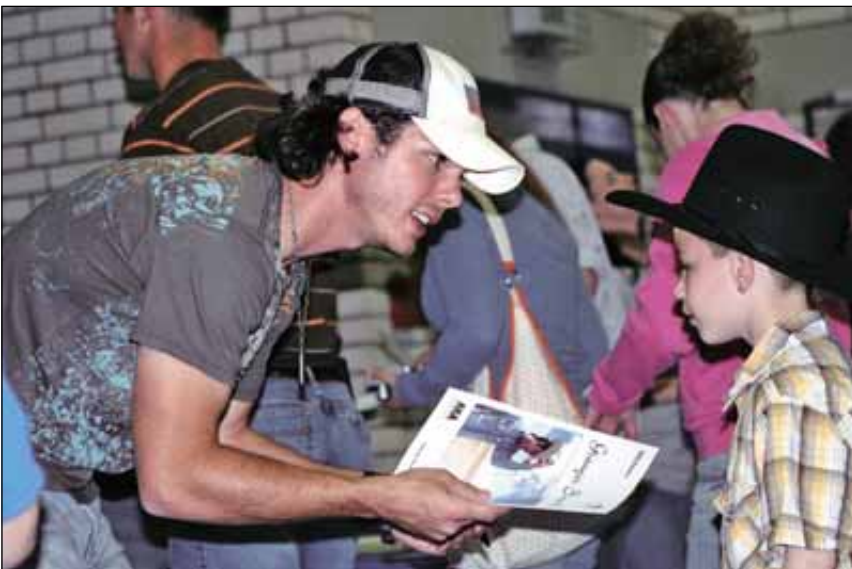
The 7th Army's certification of the Operational Command Post CJFLCC is valid for three years.

The JMTC hosted AC08 at the Joint Multinational Simulations Center. The JMTC, a facility with state-of-the-art simulations capabilities provided personnel, equipment and facilities. As part of USAREUR transformation, the JMTC will help certify the operational command post as a joint capable expeditionary headquarters.

These rehearsals replicate the contemporary operating environment, fully supporting the nation's commitment to NATO and the War on Terror.

Country music singer Granger Smith signs autographs after a performance May 16 at the Vilseck Rose Barracks Fitness Center. Sponsored by Morale, Welfare and Recreation, the singer and his band performed for Soldiers in Kuwait and Iraq before touring Germany and Italy.

Photo by Mary Markos



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Classic putt

(From left) Daniel Lonnecker and Daniel Ferrin watch Justin Lucious putt during the U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels 2008 Spring Golf Classic at the Habsberg Golf Course May 9. Fifteen four-person teams participated. Members of the first place team - Holton Stallworth, Lenny Ingram, Earl Goins, and Julio Irlanda - each received a \$150 gift card for Golfsmith.com. The second place team - Garry Barrows, Tim Bushee, Brad Eungard, and Chris Howard - received a \$100 gift card for Golfsmith.com. The third place team - John Leigh, Bill Blacklidge, Garry Russell, and Mark Clement - each received a \$75 gift card for Golfsmith.com. The USAG Hohenfels 2008 Summer Golf Classic will take place July 11 at the Lauterhofen Golf Course. Registration deadline is July 8; 18 team slots of four-person teams are available. For more information or to register e-mail d1mwrhohenfelssports@eur.army.mil.

Photo by Michele Bragg



Photo by Troy Darr

Every year during the annual Hohenfels German-American Volksfest, U.S. Soldiers challenge a team of local German mayors to a game of soccer. This year, the Americans finally clenched a 2-0 victory.

U.S. Soldiers clinch rare win against German soccer team

by KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

The Hohenfels German-American Volksfest at the beginning of May brought more than friendship to those who attended. It also brought a bit of friendly competition. Despite ever changing skies and near-constant rain, a group of U.S. Soldiers and German mayors (or their representatives) gathered for the annual German versus American soccer game. For the first time in a long time, the Americans won, 2-0. “It was very friendly, the spirit of the game,” said Jody Petery, the Army’s goal keeper. “It was like they were our big brothers, like they were impressed we finally won.” Aaron Angell scored the first goal, using his head to knock in a long pass from Spc. Arturo Fuentes. Fuentes scored the second goal. Petery said Steven Vass played a strong center fullback, stopping a few shots before they reached Petery. Dennis Redding and Angell controlled the tempo of the game by keeping possession of the ball. Also key to the American’s victory was Jarrod Fisher, left wing, and Michael Massey, left fullback. “After the game we go to the fest with our families and eat dinner and share drinks with the local German leadership. That’s the part of the game everyone looks forward to all year,” said Petery. And what better way to end a German-American friendship game, according to Troy Darr, the U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels public affairs officer. “The purpose of the mayor’s soccer game,” said Darr, “is to develop closer bonds of friendship between our leadership and the leaders of the German communities surrounding the training area.”

Soccer official clinic slated for June in Germany, Italy

■ *Clinic focusing on field mechanics, rules, points of emphasis*

IMCOM-E press release

The Installation Management Command-Europe Morale Welfare and Recreation Branch is hosting two soccer official clinics during the month of June with the first clinic being held in Germany and the second in Italy.

The U.S. Army Garrison Heidelberg is

hosting a clinic at the Schwetzingen’s Center for Workforce Development on June 4 – 7, and the U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza, Italy, is hosting a clinic June 9-14 at the Body Shop (Bldg. 393). The clinic is designed to train students to become officials, and train others to become officials for programs hosting soccer tournaments, such as Child and Youth Services, Unit Level and community games. Dan Heldman, national instructor trainer since 1999, is returning for this year’s clinic. He has conducted clinics in 14 states, Germany and Italy.

Attendees will learn field mechanics, current rules, points of emphasis, and discuss

changes. The clinic will culminate with a written test and practical examination. The practical examination will consist of on the field officiating during the clinic tournaments. The Heidelberg tournament is Saturday, June 7; the Vicenza tournament on Saturday, June 14. Visit www.mwrtade.com or <https://tade.ima-e.army.mil> to register online. The registration number is DSN 379-6438 or Schwetzingen CIV 06202-80-6438. For more info call Tom Hlavacek, at Heidelberg, DSN 370-4141 or Tom Benson, Heidelberg Sports Office at DSN 373-6460. For all clinic information in Italy, call Chaz Ingram at DSN 634-7887.



Photo by Christine June

Bryan Hogg, 17, an athlete from Vilseck High School, wins the silver in the Bocce Ball competitive game May 6 at the U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern’s 25th Special Olympics Spring Games at the German Police Academy in Enkenbach-Alsenborn.

Local student wins silver in spring Special Olympics

by MARY MARKOS
Bavarian News

Competition is something Vilseck High School Sophomore Bryan Hogg thrives on. The seasoned athlete has competed in the Special Olympics in Panama, the United States, and in Germany last year where he ignited the Olympic flame. He returned to the 25th annual Special Olympics Spring Games in Kaiserslautern May 6 to pummel the competition and earn a silver medal in bocce ball, a game he had never played. Co-hosted by the U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern and the German Police Academy in Enkenbach-Alsenborn, the games brought more than 800 athletes from 48 German and Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe to participate in eight competitive and ten non-competitive sports. The Special Olympic organization, founded by Eunice Kennedy Shriver

in 1968, provides individuals with intellectual disabilities an opportunity to excel and find acceptance through athletic competition. Competitors were awarded ribbons with the highest honors going to the gold, silver, and bronze medal winners in assisted, unassisted, and wheelchair bound categories. More than 1,400 volunteers traveled to the games to help and support the student athletes. The games, which promote understanding and acceptance, brought a special friendship to Hogg and his buddy, a U.S. Soldier from Bamberg, who volunteered as his personal coach and mentor for the day-long event. “He’s a cool guy,” Hogg said. “It was a great day.” Hogg added that he felt blessed to have won a medal and to have had so many people there cheering him on. Always competitive, he said his goal for next year is to medal in not one, but many events.

Sports Briefs

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Softball Midnight Madness slated Friday to Sunday at Grafenwoehr

A Softball Midnight Madness will be held at the Grafenwoehr Triplex May 23-25. Each team must submit a roster, complete with all the pertinent information (name, rank and ssn) signed by the and verified by the coach/or team captain. Rosters should be submitted to the USAG Grafenwoehr Sports & Recreation Division **by today at noon** (DSN FAX 475-6519 or CIV FAX 09641-83-6519). For more information contact Tony Lee DSN 475-7576. Each roster may consist of eighteen players, one coach and one manager for a total of 20. Players must consist of civilian or active duty military whose duty station is within the community they represent and who are not participating in their respective forces organized program. Players must be ID cardholders. A mandatory coaches meeting will be held Friday at 3 p.m. at the Grafenwoehr Softball Triplex. Administrative procedures will be discussed. Call DSN 475-7576.

Upcoming Sporting Events

■ TEN MILER (Qualifier) - May 31 at Grafenwoehr. Men’s divisions include U. S. military and civilian ages 18-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-99. Women’s divisions include U.S. military and civilian ages 18-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-99. Call DSN 475-7576. ■ USAG Grafenwoehr Powerlifting Championship - June 14 in Grafenwoehr. Call DSN 475-7576. ■ USAG Grafenwoehr German/American Bodybuilding Championship - June 21 in Grafenwoehr at the AAFES Tower Theater, Bldg # 620. Weight divisions include:
1. Women’s Figure (Short Category) – Up to 5’5
2. Women’s Figure (Tall Category) – 5’5.1 & up
3. Women’s Light Heavyweight – up to 118.0lbs
4. Women’s Heavyweight – 118.1lbs/ and up
5. Men’s Lightweight – up to 165 lbs/
6. Men’s Middleweight – 165.1 to 176.0lbs/
7. Men’s Light Heavyweight – 176.1 lbs to 190.0
8. Men’s Heavyweight – 190.1 lbs/ and up
Call DSN 475-7576.